0836-B-03 PREX 7.10:FBIS-EAS-92-035

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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-035
Friday
21 February 1992

JB 99-015361

COMPLETED

Daily Report
East Asia

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Japan

April Conclusion to Uruguay Round 'Difficult'

OW2102141692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—A mid-April conclusion to the Uruguay round of multilateral trade talks will be difficult to achieve in light of the continuing deadlock between the United States and the European Community (EC) on farm trade, government sources said Friday.

They also said the close contest between U.S. President George Bush and Patrick Buchanan for the Republican nomination in Tuesday's New Hampshire primary election is another obstacle to an early resolution of the global trade talks, the sources said.

Bush's inability to secure an easy victory in the election means his administration will have to focus more on domestic issues than on foreign affairs, they said.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu said earlier Friday that an early conclusion to the talks would be difficult if things continue as they have been and nothing is done.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet will likely put off a final decision removing the Japanese ban on rice imports, the sources said.

Miyazawa had planned to accept the tariffication proposal put forward in December by General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Director General Arthur Dunkel by the middle of this month, they said.

The proposal calls for converting all nontariff barriers into tariffs without exception.

A senior Farm Ministry official said Miyazawa is unlikely to accept the proposal until early next month because of the March 8 by-election in Miyagi Prefecture, a major rice-producing area.

If the situation between the U.S. and the EC continues, an early settlement to the Uruguay Round will not be possible and Japan will defer a final decision on opening the market to rice imports, he said.

Dunkel has hinted at plans to have participants of the round reach a basic agreement in late March and sign an agreement on Easter, April 19.

But the senior farm official says that although that deadline is less than two months away, the crucial farm trade talks between the U.S. and EC show no signs of a breakthrough.

Kato Declines Response to Buchanan's Comment

OW2102101492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Seeking a truce in the war of words with the United States, Japan's top government spokesman declined Friday to respond to U.S. Republican presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan's assertion that Japan is interfering in U.S. internal affairs.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said he had been informed of Buchanan's gripe, but that it would be best to maintain silence.

"We should not say things that might influence another country's election," Kato said at a news conference. [passage omitted]

U.S. Trade Data 'Generally Within Expectations'

OW2002145292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—A Bank of Japan (BOJ) source said Thursday U.S. trade figures for December announced earlier in the day were generally within expectations and will have little impact on currency markets.

The U.S. Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade gap for December widened to 5.94 billion dollars from a revised 4.17 bllion dollars in November.

The source said the trade report will not serve as an incentive to buy or sell the dollar partly because the data is rather old in that it refers to December figures.

The Commerce Department also announced that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan rose to 4.5 billion dollars in December from 3.4 billion dollars in November.

A market source said although traders had forecast an expansion in the U.S. trade deficit, the actual figures were worse than expected.

He said the latest trade statistics will have little impact on foreign exchange markets because traders are bullish toward the dollar and not reacting to news that would normally adversely affect dollar buying.

A dealer with a major commercial bank said reaction toward the U.S. trade balance has taken its course.

But he said it was hard to predict future movements of currency rates since some traders are fearful of central bank dollar-selling interventions.

Tokyo Views U.S. Tax on Canadian-Built Hondas

OW2102110392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry source said Friday a U.S. decision to subject Canadian-built Honda cars to American customs duties will affect Japanese investment in Canada.

Japan will ask the U.S. to listen closely to views of the Canadian Government and Japanese firms in Canada if it decides to change its standard for calculating the ratio of parts procured in North America, he said.

Tokyo will make its request through diplomatic channels, the source said.

Until now, Honda of America Mfg. Inc., a North American subsidiary of Honda Motor Co., has exported cars assembled in Canada to the U.S. that were not subjected to U.S. customs duties.

Under a U.S.-Canadian free trade pact, Canadian-built cars with 50 percent or more of their parts produced in North America were allowed to enter the U.S. duty free.

Honda said the U.S. was preparing to levy a duty after a recent rule change disallowed Honda Civic engines as part of the cars' North American content, even though the engines are built in Ohio.

The rule change brought the cars slightly below the 50 percent required for duty exemption under the trade pact.

Tokyo Voices Concern About Clashes in Lebanon

OW2102104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1020 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Japan on Friday voiced concern at the escalation of violence between Israel and Lebanese guerrillas and expressed hopes that it would not adversely affect the Middle East peace process.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters that Japan "deeply deplores the clash of armed forces in southern Lebanon and calls on all parties concerned for self-restraint."

The remarks followed an incident Thursday in which a tank-led Israeli force broke through U.N. barricades to raid two southern Lebanese villages to root out Shiite muslim guerrillas, as well as rocket launchers used in recent days by the radical Hizballah group to shell the Jewish state.

Two U.N. peacekeepers were shot and wounded in the incident, which came shortly after Israel struck back against Lebanese guerrillas killing of three of its soldiers in retaliation for the earlier Israeli killing of Hizballah leader Shaykh Abbas Musawi in a helicopter raid in southern Lebanon.

Hanabusa was implicitly critical of Israel, saying Japan again confirmed "that the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon should be strictly respected."

"Japan also strongly hopes that the issue will not have a negative effect on the ongoing Middle East peace process," he said.

PRC Envoy Denies Exports of Nuclear Technology

OW2102105992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—China wants Emperor Akihito's apology for Japan's atrocities before and during World War II, Chinese Ambassador to Japan Yang Zhenya hinted Friday.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are expected to visit China this fall as part of events marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Yang said, "If (the emperor) should express an (apologetic) attitude for the unhappy history that once engulfed the two nations, the peoples of the two would regard such expression as natural."

Speaking at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo, the Chinese envoy said, "The emperor's visit would play a crucial role in advancing long-term bilateral friendly relations."

Yang said the Chinese Government would make sure that the Chinese people did not disrupt the visit or embarrass the emperor with protests despite the memories of the wartime aggressions that took the lives of many of their family members and relatives.

"The Chinese Government deeply understands the important position the emperor occupies in the Japanese people's hearts," he said. "It is important for the two governments to create a friendly atmosphere which will facilitate the emperor's visit to China."

Asked how China would deal with the political issue of Chinese women forced into prostitution for Japanese troops during the war, Yang said he hopes Tokyo will investigate and unravel the true historical facts regarding the women.

"(The forced prostitution of the so-called 'comfort women') is one of the shameless criminal acts committed by the advocates of Japanese militarism of those days," he said.

Tens of thousands of women, mostly Koreans, were forced to provide sexual services to Japanese soldiers at frontline camps during World War II.

The Chinese ambassador did not demand compensation for the ordeals of the women.

Yang denied press reports that China has exported nuclear weapons technology and missiles to Iran and other countries.

"China's weapons exports are of a small scale...and China has limited them to levels which (China) judged the recipient countries need to build up their defense capabilities," he said.

PRC Envoy Acknowledges Detention of Deportee

OW2102090592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Chinese Ambassador Yang Zhenya acknowledged Friday a Chinese refugee was jailed for six months after being deported by Japan last August despite her lawyers' claim she is a pro-democracy dissident.

Yang said Lin Guizhen, 25, was detained for violating Chinese laws banning unauthorized overseas trips, not because of her alleged role in antigovernment demonstrations in June 1989.

The diplomat was making his first-ever statements on Lin at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

"Lin Guizhen was detained and interrogated by Chinese security authorities because she left China in contravention of our country's immigration and emigration laws," Yang said. "Lin clandestinely left China because she had suffered bad relations with her family."

He said two Japanese journalists visited Lin's home January 12 in the southern coastal province of Fujian and interviewed her mother for about 30 minutes. The mother told them Lin was serving a two-year jail term.

One of the journalists, Masaru Takagishi of Fukuoka Broadcasting Corp., said Lin's mother told him Lin was immediately taken from Shanghai Airport to jail. The mother said she was allowed to visit Lin only twice and found her in frail health.

The ambassador refused to answer reporters' questions on why Lin was singled out for the six-month detention in the Changlexian Prison in Fujian from among 62 Chinese deportees forced on a Shanghai-bound plane from Japan.

Takagishi, who also visited the prison, said all the other deportees were released after two days of questioning and paying a fine equivalent of 80,000 yen.

The journalist's interview with Lin's mother and in the footages of the prison building were nationally televised in Japan on January 23. After the broadcast, several Diet legislators requested the Foreign Ministry inquire about her whereabouts and condition.

The ambassador made the comments a day after the Japanese Embassy in Beijing said Chinese authorities had told the embassy Lin was serving a one-year house detention in her family's home for "reeducation."

Lin was freed from jail January 15, immediately after the reporters' visit, according to one of her lawyers, Tadashi Yoshino, who helped her reapply for political sanctuary despite the Justice Ministry's refusal to grant her refugee status before her deportation.

She was expelled August 14 with two appeal lawsuits still pending seeking the nullification of the deportation order and recognition of her refugee status at the Tokyo and Fukuoka district courts.

The Japanese Government said Lin was smuggled into Japan "as a mere migrant worker," as it said her father, an intellectual fired from his teaching job during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, could not find a good-paying job, forcing his family to live on meager income.

Lin entered Japan in September 1989 in a boat with 230 other Chinese. Upon arrival in Okinawa prefecture, she applied for political asylum. Her application was rejected in June 1990 as was a subsequent appeal.

Amnesty International, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and other lawyers' groups protested her deportation, saying it violated the 1951 U.N. refugee convention banning the deportation of those with well-founded fear of persecution. Japan ratified the convention in 1982.

Tokyo Accepts PRC Explanation

OW2102101392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Japan accepts Beijing's explanations that a woman deported from Japan while seeking political asylum was seized for illegally leaving China, not for political reasons, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday.

Tokyo has no cause to doubt the Chinese explanation that 25-year- old Lin Guizhen is serving a year of house labor for "reeducation" for leaving China without authorization, starting after her forced return last August, Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said.

But, the spokesman told foreign reporters, "if the Chinese handling of the lady is for political reasons, then there will be a need for us to think about it very seriously."

Chinese authorities explained their treatment of Lin to officials at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday.

On Friday, Chinese Ambassador to Japan Yang Zhenya said Lin had been jailed for six months for illegal emigration. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in the two Chinese accounts.

Lin, who arrived in Okinawa by boat in September 1989 with 230 other Chinese, told Japanese officials she participated in the pro-democracy movement around the time of the military crackdown on demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square three months earlier.

But Japan deported her to China in August 1991, despite ongoing lawsuits in the Tokyo and Fukuoka district courts aimed at annulling the government's refusal of her request for political refugee status.

Ferry Service Expansion on Shanghai Route Agreed

OW2102102792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0944 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Japan and China agreed Friday to establish two joint venture companies to expand ferry service between Japanese ports and Shanghai, Japanese officials said.

They said Japanese and Chinese Government officials in charge of shipping reached the agreement to deal with increasing volume on the Japan-Shanghai route.

Tokyo-based Shanghai Ferry Co., owned by Japan's 11 major shipping companies, will invest in the equally owned ventures, but the date the ventures will start has not been set, the officials said.

The Shanghai-based joint venture Japan-China International Ferry Co. currently runs a weekly round-trip service between Shanghai and Kobe, Osaka, and Yokohama.

In the negotiations China asked that the new ferry serve Japanese ports other than the three currently served, but Japan insisted that it call on the three ports.

Shipping company officials from both countries will hold further negotiations to iron out the differences, Japanese officials said.

Spokesman on Nuclear Arms Assertions by DPRK

OW2102075792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0734 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Friday slammed North Korea for suggesting Japan is aiming to develop a nuclear weapons capability.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told foreign correspondents, "If the North Korean Government entertains a certain concern, it is unfortunate."

Hanabusa said he hopes Pyongyang will become better informed about Japanese politics.

His comments followed North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk's reported proposal Thursday that North and South Korea work together to check "the nuclear threat of Japan."

Yon called for joint efforts to "correctly assess Japan's intentions on nuclear armament."

Hanabusa said Japanese policies of peaceful use of nuclear energy and its three nonnuclear principles—to neither possess, manufacture, nor introduce nuclear weapons—"are well known around the world."

A top Foreign Ministry source said Thursday evening North Korea may be making the assertion to justify its refusal to allow international inspectors to verify that its own nuclear facilities are geared only for peaceful purposes.

The source said Pyongyang's tactics may be part of a strategy of stirring up anxiety among Japan's Asian neighbors about its intentions.

Arctic Use of Russian Icebreakers Plan Noted

OW2102111792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1035 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum said Friday it will discuss with Russia a plan for joint use of Russian atomic-powered icebreakers on a new shipping route through the Arctic Sea.

The private group working for the peaceful use of atomic energy said an 11-member delegation will make a one-week visit to Russia from March 9 to review the project with Russian experts.

Officials of the forum said there is a good possibility that a proposal may be introduced by the Russian side for the joint operation of a container and tourist service between Japan and Europe via the Arctic Sea.

They said Russia is likely to offer eight of the country's atomic-powered icebreakers for the service.

Russia wants to use the new route as a source of foreign exchange earnings, the officials said.

The proposed route would substantially reduce the travel time between Japan and Europe, the officials said.

They said the former Soviet Union decided to open the portion of the Arctic Sea under its jurisdiction to international shipping last summer.

They said the proposal may be introduced at Japan-Russia seminars on atomic-powered ships to be held in Moscow and Murmansk on the occasion of the delegation's visit to Russia.

They said data on Japan's atomic-powered experimental ship Mutsu and the Russian icebreaker Lenin will be introduced at the seminars.

Tokyo To Uphold 'Self-Defense' Interpretation

OW2102064692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0624 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday the government will continue to interpret the war-renouncing Constitution as saying Japan exerts military power only for self-defense.

Prime Minister Miyazawa made the statement in reply to questions from Social Democratic Party (SDP) member Minoru Mizuta during a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting.

The comments come one day after a ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel released a draft report on possible future roles for Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in U.N. peacemaking forces.

Under a collective security system envisaged by the U.N. Charter, forces fighting under the command of a proposed U.N. General Staff could be sent to impose peace by force in areas of conflict.

Mizuta asked Miyazawa if he considers the draft report to be a deviation from the interpretation of Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution, which stipulates that Japan renounces military power as a means of resolving international disputes.

The prime minister replied that the government does not change its stance on the constitutional article, which politicians and scholars interpret as prohibiting Japan from participating in a collective security system.

Miyazawa said he wants to hear about the draft in more detail after the panel compiles a more precise final report based on further deliberation.

On Thursday, the panel chaired by former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa released the draft paper recommending that SDF personnel participate in United Nations peacemaking forces and other collective security systems.

Since its establishment in 1945, the U.N. has never placed U.N. peacemaking forces directly under U.N. commanders, largely because cold war hostilities prevented the required cooperation between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

Instead, the U.N. has created peacekeeping forces to monitor ceasefires between warring factions.

Mizuta demanded that Miyazawa and the government promise not to adopt the report when the panel submits it to the government.

Miyazawa declined to answer the demand specifically, saying the report does not represent a government view, but rather an LDP view.

Meanwhile, following a regular cabinet meeting, Defense Agency Chief Sohei Miyashita told reporters that the report does not currently apply to the SDF since the Constitution prohibits Japan from participating in collective security forces.

In an LDP Executive Council meeting, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda criticized the panel for virtually revising the interpretation of the Constitution, saying, "We have limits in interpreting Article 9 of the Constitution."

Gotoda, who in World War II was an Imperial Army junior military officer, was chief cabinet secretary in the cabinet led by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Immediate Position Change Denied

OW2102130392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1239 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday denied any immediate change in the government's legal position that Japan cannot join U.N. forces under the pacifist Constitution which bans the country from using force in settling international disputes.

Miyazawa made the comment one day after a panel of his governing Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] called for opening studies on participation in U.N. forces.

"No changes have been brought into the government's interpretations (of the constitutional ban on the use of military forces overseas)," Miyazawa said at a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

The panel, led by former LDP Secretarty General Ozawa Ichiro, released a draft report Thursday calling for altering conventional interpretations of the Constitution's Article 9.

Opposition member Minoru Mizuta blasted the report for trampling the spirit of the Constitution, saying, "it is dangerous to apply loose interpretations to the Constitution."

Following the outbreak of the Persian Gulf crisis in 1990, the government of then Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu submitted a bill aimed at sending Japanese troops to assist U.S.-led multinational forces in the Gulf region.

The U.N. Peace Cooperation Bill, however, was killed in the House of Representatives by strong objection from opposition parties.

Diet business came to a halt for about four hours Friday after Miyazawa and opposition members exchanged questions and answers in the morning session.

The opposition camp threatened to boycott budget deliberations again, further dimming the chance the Diet will pass the budget before April 1, when fiscal 1992 starts.

The failure to meet the deadline would mandate the drafting of a stopgap budget and would threaten government efforts to stimulate the economy to meet domestic and international obligations.

The opposition camp made the boycott threat when the government refused to live up to an opposition demand that it investigate allegations that a conservative candidate in the House of Councillors election expected in July had illegally solicited the help of a health and welfare ministry-linked organization.

Minoru Mizuta, a Social Democratic Party legislator, charged that Ritsuko Nagao, former director general of the ministry's Social Affairs Bureau, had been receiving cooperation from welfare officials to boost the number of people registered in her political support group. Nagano is scheduled to run in the election on the LDP ticket.

Diet business resumed after the government vowed to investigate the allegation quickly.

Later, Prime Minister Miyazawa apologized for the allegation and vowed to deal with the matter "with a strict and fair manner."

"(Politicians) should avoid mixing up public duties and private affairs," he said.

Panel Proposes Reducing Lower House Seats by 41

OW2002144492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1428 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—A Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] panel proposed on Thursday a plan to reduce the number of seats in the House of Representatives by 41 to 471 and to reapportion electoral districts.

The election system panel, within the LDP's Political Reform Headquarters, worked out the plan as a springboard for the party's final proposals for a new election system scheduled to be submitted by the end of next month.

According to the plan proposed on Thursday, the current 512 seats in the lower house would be reduced to 471 and the two-seat and six-seat constituencies would be abolished.

Among the 471 seats, 47 would be distributed evenly among the 47 prefectures, and the rest would be allocated in proportion to each prefecture's population.

As a result, the largest estimated disparity in the value of one vote among constituencies would be 1.46 times between those in Kanagawa and Shimane Prefectures, lower than the disparity of three times ruled by the Supreme Court in 1983 as violating the constitutional guarantee of equality under the law.

Hajime Ishii, head of the election system panel, said the plan would never allow for a disparity larger than two times.

Miyazawa Vows To Support Reform Legislation

OW2102042992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0355 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday he hopes to win the passage of political reform legislation during the current Diet session.

Miyazawa made the remark in a meeting with Home Affairs Minister Masajuro Shiokawa in the Diet building, officials said.

Aides said Miyazawa will hold marathon talks with members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's political reform panel, cabinet members, and business leaders from Friday to Sunday.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and other powerful business leaders have long complained about Miyazawa's alleged reluctance to reform the "money politics" in Japan.

Firm Admits Paying for Minister's Secretary

OW2002162292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1516 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—A company which had been paying the salary of a private secretary of Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe recently filed a revised tax return after admitting it had been making the payments, informed sources said Thursday.

A theatrical agency, Tokyo Hoei Terebi, made the report to the Tokyo regional Taxation Bureau after admitting it had falsely declared some 17 million yen it had paid to the secretary as part of the personnel expenses of the company, the sources said. The money should have been declared as a loan or donation, which are both subject to taxation.

Up until last year, the company had paid a monthly salary of several hundred thousand yen over several years to Watanabe's private secretary, according to the sources. Watanabe was accused at a Diet session in December of having more than 10 companies in his constituency in Niigata Prefecture pay the salary of his private secretary. The minister said at the session that he would correct any inappropriate actions he had made.

Tokyo Hoei Terebi is the first company to admit making such payments. Other companies which have paid the secretary's salary are also considering filing revised tax returns, the sources said.

Watanabe told KYODO NEWS SERVICE he did not know anything about the revised tax return made by Tokyo Hoei Terebi.

Yen's Weakness Puts BOJ in 'Policy Dilemma'

OW2102101792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The wobbly Japanese currency has put the Bank of Japan (BOJ) in a monetary policy dilemma, economists said Friday.

The yen's weakness is fettering the central bank's hand in easing its monetary policy further, a step many economists view as inevitable for boosting the faltering economy.

Expectations are growing again in the market the BOJ will shortly cut the official discount rate again, probably in March, as signs the economy is sinking into a deeper trough are rife.

The central bank admitted in its monthly outlook for economic and financial conditions released Friday the inventory adjustment is now getting into full swing, harshly constraining production.

Consumer and capital spending, the two principal driving forces for the economy, are sputtering.

The sales of department stores in Tokyo recorded year-on-year declines in both December and January. Machinery orders posted an over 10 percent drop in both November and December, demonstrating the weak capital spending.

And industrial output, which declined 1.9 percent in December from a year earlier, will remain on a downtrend in coming months as inventory adjustment continues, a BOJ official said.

The Nippon Credit Bank recently projected the corporate capital investments will decline 1.3 percent in fiscal 1992, registering the first downswing in 15 years.

Russell Jones, senior economist at UBS Phillips and Drew International Ltd, said, "if you look at the domestic position, there is no doubt that another cut in the (benchmark) interest rate is warranted."

Atsushi Miyawaki, senior economist at the Japan Research Institute, a Sumitomo Bank affiliate, concurred.

"Both consumer and capital spending are becoming increasingly soft. There are no significant factors that could help jack up the economy at the moment," he said.

Miyawaki predicted the economy will not see light at the end of the tunnel until fiscal 1993 begins.

"I would not be surprised if the BOJ cuts the official discount rate within a month," he said.

Fujio Tatsuuma, chief manager at the Economic Research Dept. of Mitsubishi Bank, said chances are the BOJ will cut the key lending rate immediately after the next release of its quarterly survey of business confidence, called "tankan."

The central bank announced Friday it will release the closely-watched report March 6.

But economists point out the recent downturn of the yen has made conditions quite inappropriate for the central bank to ease its grip on money.

"The problem is that the currency is not behaving very well, and I think a cut (in the rate) now is very risky from a currency perspective," said UBS P and D's Jones. Lower interest rates usually cause the country's currency to weaken.

The Japanese monetary authorities have made it clear they want to see the yen stabilize in an upward direction.

BOJ Governor Yasushi Mieno and Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata have both said the yen should not weaken because it creates negative effects on Japan's trade surplus and domestic inflation.

These concerns "explain why the BOJ has been falling over itself to push the yen higher," said Jones.

They have followed talk with action by intervening in the currency market to prop up the yen.

But the yen refused to take a major upturn as expectations of lower interest rates in Japan and the brighter outlook for the U.S. economy are putting strong downward pressures on the Japanese currency.

"This is a real policy dilemma," Jones said. "It's gonna be difficult to cut the interest rate at this moment."

"My feeling is that if the yen doesn't strengthen, they may have to let the yen go, and cut anyway."

"It would be a very difficult decision for somebody like Mr. Mieno, because he doesn't like inflation," he said.

Business Leader Urges BOJ Discount Rate Cut

OW2102121892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—The Chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged the Bank of Japan (BOJ) on Friday to cut the official discount rate again, saying the central bank's stance on the economy is too optimistic.

Rokuro Ishikawa said the BOJ and the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) are watching the economy from macro levels but business conditions vary depending on districts and industries.

It is a question how far the BOJ and the EPA could follow real business conditions with the current systems they have, Ishikawa said.

He said the Diet's early passing of the fiscal 1992 budget plan is essential to stimulate the economy, while all possible fiscal and monetary measures should be launched.

The official discount rate stands at 4.5 percent per annum after being cut 0.5 percentage point December 30.

Trade Minister Urges Early Passage of Budget

OW2102041092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe, expressing grave concern over the domestic economic situation, called Friday for early passage of the fiscal 1992 budget through the Diet.

Watanabe, minister of international trade and industry, told a news conference after a cabinet session Friday morning that the current economic condition is more severe than the Finance Ministry and the Economic Planning Agency see it.

"Profit declines were reported not only by medium and small enterprises but (also by) major industries. The real situation of the domestic economy is not such as is reported by the Finance Ministry and the Economic Planning Agency," he said.

"Early enactment of the budget is the most urgent task to prop up the economy," Watanabe said.

Watanabe stressed the need for the government to take all possible measures to accomplish its target of 3.5 percent economic growth in fiscal 1992, which begins April 1.

His remark was regarded as indicating that the ministry would advance disbursement of funds for public works projects and seek another cut in the official discount rate by the Bank of Japan.

The central bank reduced the key lending rate three times last year to the present level of 4.5 percent per annum.

Vehicle Output Said To Decline From Year Ago

OW2102061692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Japan's production of cars, buses, and trucks fell 1.5 percent in January from a year earlier to 1,033,627 vehicles, for the second straight month of year-on-year decline, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said Friday.

The January decline follows a 1.9 percent fall in December from a year before, which brought total output in 1991 down 1.8 percent for the first yearly setback in four years, association officials said.

The officials blamed the production shrinkage on the economic slowdown at ho~~me and~~ high interest rates, which helped squeeze domestic demand.

In January, production of passenger cars was also down for the second month in a row, falling 1.3 percent to 766,612 in a decline caused by slack demand for compact cars.

Production of trucks slid 2.4 percent to 263,105, for the sixth consecutive monthly drop, but output of buses rose 25.0 percent to 3,910.

Commercial Sales Show Lowest Growth in 5 Years

OW2102095092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—Japan's commercial sales showed their lowest growth in 5 years in 1991, because of a slump in consumer spending, the International Trade and Industry Ministry reported Friday.

Sales at large-scale retailers and major wholesalers throughout the country totaled 693,881 billion yen in 1991, up 2.5 percent, ministry officials said.

The country's commercial sales inched down 0.5 percent in the October-December quarter from a year earlier, due mainly to declines in crude oil prices, they said.

Sales at wholesalers posted a 2.0 percent gain and those at large-scale retailers expanded 4.5 percent, the officials said.

Sales of automobiles fell below the previous year's levels in the second half of last year and those of art and jewelry suffered a setback with the burst of the so-called "bubble economy," they said.

Fujitsu, ICL Plan To Integrate Sales Firms

OW2002144592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1430 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. announced on Thursday the integration of its sales companies and those of the British computer maker International Computers Ltd. (ICL), in North America, Oceania and Europe, effective April 1.

The purpose is the buildup of the Fujitsu group's sales capabilities in the regions, company officials said.

Fujitsu acquired an 80 percent interest in ICL in 1990.

The integration will be carried out by establishing a sales company in each of the three regions on April 1.

Fujitsu-ICL systems, owned 80 percent by ICL and 20 percent by Fujitsu, will be created in Dallas.

Fujitsu Australia, 80 percent owned by Fujitsu and 20 percent by ICL, will be set up in Chatswood, Australia.

Fujitsu Systems Business Europe, wholly owned by ICL, will be established in Bracknell, southern England.

Fujitsu Builds Single-Chip Supercomputer CPU

OW1902061492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Wednesday it has developed what it claims to be the world's fastest single-chip supercomputer central processing unit [CPU].

The vector processing unit (VPU) achieves a peak computational speed of 289 million floating point operations a second (FLOPS), company officials said.

Peak performance is the fastest speed a computer can achieve and it is reached for only a moment.

Fujitsu expects to begin shipping samples of the VPU in the third quarter of this calender year, the officials said.

Application Technology Engineering Research Laboratory (ATERL), a Japanese designer and seller of semiconductor hardware that was set up in 1990, is also developing a system to incorporate the Fujitsu device and will begin shipping it at around the same time, Fujitsu officials said. That system is based on a popular engineering system standard called the VME [expansion unknown] bus.

Fujitsu researchers built the device by packing 1.5 million transistors onto a 64-bit numeric processor using 0.5 micron complementary metal oxide semiconductor, three-layer metal technology, according to the officials.

The chip can be used as a stand-alone microprocessor or as a co-processor to perform in either conventional complex instruction set computer (CISC) or the newer reduced instruction set computer (RISC)-based machines. Personal computers are normally CISC-based computers, while advanced engineering workstations use RISC chips.

The Fujitsu chip is ideal for aerodynamic and structural analysis, seismic processing, reservoir modeling and imaging processing, they said.

Supercomputers are widely used by scientists and engineers in the auto, aerospace, and petrochemical industries, as well as by researchers to perform high-speed calculations.

The company will present its innovation at a semiconductor industry conference to be held in San Francisco this week, the officials said.

Fujitsu Develops High-Speed 16-Megabit SRAM

OW2002114892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1042 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Thursday it has developed the world's fastest 16-megabit static random access memory (SRAM) device.

Japan's largest computer maker presented its development at the international solid-state circuit conference being held in San Francisco the same day.

SRAMS are often used as memory chips in portable systems such as handheld computers.

The chip, 10.4 millimeters by 21.5 millimeters, has an access time of 15 nanoseconds—or 15 billionths of a second.

The company said the chip was built with an etching process called a special 0.4 micron complementary metal oxide semiconductor technology with I-line lithography.

The Tokyo-based computer maker will commercialize the chip some time next year, officials said.

An SRAM can retain information longer and has a faster access time than the more widely used DRAM (dynamic random access memory) devices in computers and consumer products.

Earlier this week, Fujitsu announced at the conference it had developed a vector processor that had a peak computational speed of 289 million floating-point operations per second, a measurement used to gauge a chip's performance.

Hitachi, Indonesian Firm Plan To Build Factory

OW2102083292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0730 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb. 21 KYODO—Japan's Hitachi Ltd. and Modern Group of Indonesia have agreed to form a joint venture to build a home appliance factory, a local business newspaper said Friday.

The venture will begin producing fans, rice cookers, and other appliances by next year, said the daily BISNIS INDONESIA.

Samadikun Hartono, president-director of Modern Group, said the venture will be capitalized at 20 billion rupiah, with 40 percent equity capital and the rest coming from bank loans, according to the newspaper.

Hitachi will own 60 percent of the venture's shares, with Modern Group—known as the sole agent in Indonesia for Fuji Photo Film Co.—owning 40 percent, the report said.

Hartono was quoted as saying half the venture's products will be allocated for export, mostly to the United States and Europe.

The factory will be built on an industrial estate belonging to Modern Group in Serang, West Java, about 150 kilometers from Jakarta, the daily said.

Computer Hardware, Software Concept Unveiled

OW2002144392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1417 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. announced Thursday a basic concept of developing, manufacturing, and distributing computer hardware and software that will more fully meet the needs of corporate users.

The computer maker has established the concept, called "Forefront," in view of a growing tendency for users to buy computers and terminals made by different makers to establish optimum integrated computer information systems.

Hitachi said it has also considered trends toward an open system constructed in such a way that different operating systems can work together, and toward distributed data processing.

The company announced the addition of new models to its Hitac M-880 processor group of very large mainframe computers, based on the new concept.

It also unveiled an entirely new Hitac M-860 processor group of large mainframes along the lines of the concept.

The new computers will go on sale Monday.

Hitachi said it is also marketing functionally enhanced models of its magnetic tape cartridge drives and magnetic tape library drives.

NEC Develops International Communication System

OW2102094892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 21 KYODO—NEC [Nippon Electric Company] Corp. announced Friday it has developed an international multimedia communications system to facilitate real-time interactive group work among users in different parts of the world.

The company said the system links users through desktop video workstations and allows them joint access to a central databases, including text, graphics, hand drawings, voice, scanned images, and video pictures.

Company officials said NEC is itself using such a system to link its Tokyo headquarters with three company research centers in Japan and one in Princeton, New Jersey.

They said the multimedia system is more than just a teleconferencing network and its operating cost is only one-tenth that of existing teleconferencing systems.

Economic Planning Agency Polls Foreigners

OW2002085192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—Nearly 40 percent of foreigners working in Tokyo and questioned in a government poll released Thursday said they find it difficult to live in the city.

The poll, conducted by the Economic Planning Agency last July among 284 foreign business persons in Tokyo, found that 5.3 percent replied that living in Tokyo is "difficult," with 32.0 percent finding it "rather difficult."

Of those taking a negative view of life in Tokyo, 63.4 percent cited general overcrowding as a problem, while 58.5 percent complained about high prices.

The poll also showed that 47.5 percent cited poor natural surroundings as a negative factor.

Of the total of pollees, 13.7 percent said it is "easy or comfortable" to live in Tokyo, while 44.4 percent replied that their life in Tokyo is "rather easy or comfortable."

Of those taking a positive view of life in Tokyo, 69.7 percent cited good security, while 29.2 percent singled out easy access to a variety of services, such as restaurants which stay open until late at night and housekeeping help.

Of the 284 pollees, 82.7 percent were male, and 16.5 percent were female, and 0.7 percent did not disclose their sex.

Asked what they think of moving elsewhere without their families to take up a new job in the same company—a practice common in Japanese companies—76.1 percent said employers should pay due attention to employees' wishes.

Nearly half the pollees said the practice, known in Japan as "tanshin funin (living away from family for job purposes)," is seen in their countries only among corporate executives, and is not imposed on employees against their will as it sometimes is in Japan.

Many pollees said they believe the practice is deeply rooted in Japan's socioeconomic system, and cited a lack of labor mobility as well as rigid education and corporate systems as factors behind the problem.

One 37-year-old American respondent said, "there is little difference between working and living apart from their families and living together with them so long as Japanese businessmen go out drinking every night for their jobs and playing golf every weekend for the same reason."

Many Japanese businessmen often go drinking at night with customers and play golf with clients on weekends to deepen business relationships.

Most Tokyo Residents 'Comfortable' in Capital

OW2002091492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0807 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO—A majority of Japanese residents in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area feel comfortable with life in the nation's most crowded region because of transport and shopping conveniences, according to an annual government survey released Thursday.

The survey, taken last June by the Economic Planning Agency over 1,734 adults in the metropolitan area, found that 63.7 percent find life "easy or comfortable" in the area despite crowdedness, higher prices, and poor natural surroundings.

Only 7.6 percent replied they find it "difficult" to live in the area because it is crowded, prices are high, natural surroundings are poor, and housing space is limited, according to the survey on "living satisfaction," the 12th of its kind.

Asked to pinpoint why they feel life is "easy" in the area, 67.2 percent cited transport convenience, followed by shopping convenience with 29.0 percent, and good medical facilities with 25.4 percent.

Asked the main reason why they feel life in the area is "difficult," 60.8 percent cited the fact that there is no crowd-free place.

Higher prices were cited next by 45.5 percent, followed by poor natural surroundings with 30.4 percent.

Asked what attracts them about life in local areas, 65.7 percent of the pollees cited rich natural surroundings, followed by greater affluence with 35.8 percent and wider housing space with 25.0 percent.

The survey found 36.6 percent want to enjoy such local attractions, with 40.3 percent replying they would like to do so if possible.

But only 7.8 percent said they would be willing to change their jobs to live in local areas, while 64.2 percent replied that they want to continue living in the Tokyo area.

Bill Includes Jail for Threatened Species Trade

OW1902142892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO—Legislation prepared by the Environment Agency would provide for up to a year's jail for people found dealing in flora and fauna threatened with extinction, KYODO NEWS SERVICE learned Wednesday.

Provisionally known as the "Preservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Bill," it would place a complete ban on transactions, including the import and export, of endangered species, as well as their capture and harvesting.

Tight restrictions would be imposed on development of designated regions, including forest, marshland, and river habitats of such species, according to the bill, a copy of which was made available to KYODO.

It represents the first comprehensive attempt in Japan to frame legislation aimed at protecting wildlife covering not only birds and animals, but also insects, freshwater fish, amphibians, and plants.

The government aims to enact the legislation by April 1992.

The agency prepared the bill ahead of the eighth conference in Kyoto of member countries of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from March 2 to 13.

The bill's immediate priority is to protect wild plants and animals in imminent danger of extinction by dividing them into three categories of domestically and internationally scarce flora and fauna, and emergency cases.

Of the domestic species, those capable of propagation for commercial purposes are allotted a subcategory known as "designated domestic scarce wild fauna and flora."

These domestic species will be chosen from among a list coordinated and collated by the agency.

Of about 34,000 animals, including insects, on the list, about 650 face an immediate threat of extinction.

Of about 5,300 species of plants, excluding trees, about 890 face a similar fate.

Appendix one of CITES, which automatically bans all commercial trade, applies to about 520 categories internationally, including such animals as the gorilla.

Any trade or transaction involving domestic or international species for purposes other than scientific is in principle banned under the legislation which also makes a point of including within its ambit areas known as the habitats of threatened species.

As well as designating such areas as protected zones, the legislation singles out sites requiring particularly strict protection as "managed zones."

It places tight restrictions on 10 specific types of developments such as land reclamation and quarrying, the cutting of trees or bamboo, the use of fertilizers, and the altering of water volumes.

The legislation also allows for the establishment of a new post of director of preservation of scarce species of wild flora and fauna, to be filled by a member of the agency.

North Korea

Sixth Round of N-S Talks Ends in Pyongyang

Spokesman Sums Up Talks

SK2102010292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Statement given by An Pyong-su, spokesman of the North's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, at news conference on 20 February at the conclusion of the sixth round of talks; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] Hello everyone. The sixth round of North-South high-level talks ended today. Before talking about the contents of the high-level talks, I will tell all of you about the most important and significant event that took place during our talks.

Today, the respected and beloved leader President Kim Il-song met both delegations. They listened to his valuable talk, which has programmatic significance. This can guarantee the success of future North-South high-level talks.

In meeting with delegations members from both sides, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song highly assessed the result of the high-level talks and expressed satisfaction with them. He said that both sides should successfully progress in the talks, must sufficiently implement the items already agreed upon, and furthermore must work to vigorously open the way for the reunification of the fatherland.

It is difficult for me to discuss all of Kim Il-song's talk here, so I will talk about the three key points and ideas:

First, he emphasized that it is important for both sides to adhere to a truly independent stand. He said that now that the North and South are reconciled and are cooperating in living peacefully, the old confrontational viewpoint of depending on outside forces, as in the past confrontational era, and allowing interference by outside forces and confrontation with fellow countrymen must be washed away.

He also said that we should not keep company and join hands with outside forces. Rather, we should have faith in the might of the fellow countrymen; have more trust in them; and, in accordance with the force of national independence, we must sufficiently implement the agreement and accelerate the advance of the reunification of the fatherland.

Second, he emphasized that greatest interest must be in the North and the South's resolving the issue of peace on the Korean peninsula and that practical measures to guarantee peace must be taken. He emphasized that to guarantee nonaggression and clearly eliminate apprehension of invasion from either the South or the North, we must suspend the arms competition and rapidly realize arms reduction.

In addition, Kim Il-song said that under today's conditions in which the North and South have pledged that they would live together in peace and without fighting, it is also time that we decisively solved the question of U.S. military bases in South Korea.

At the same time, he stressed that we should mutually sweep away misgivings about the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula as well.

We have no way of knowing if U.S. nuclear weapons remain in South Korea or if they have all been shipped out. Under conditions like this, misgivings about the nuclear threat, the nuclear threat to which we have been subjected for the past 30 years, have not disappeared to our satisfaction.

Under these conditions, we should settle this question satisfactorily. Speaking about ourselves, Kim Il-song has clearly stated that we have no nuclear weapons, we do not produce them, and we do not find it necessary to produce them.

Is it not clear that we have neither the capability nor the intention to create a nuclear confrontation with our neighborly nuclear powers or major powers? Moreover, how can we even imagine that we could develop nuclear weapons capable of annihilating our fellow countrymen? For this reason, the great leader clearly stated that no one should harbor doubts about this question.

Third, North and South should promote great national unity based literally on the ideals of reconciliation and unity.

He particularly emphasized the need for us to stop looking to others and trying to keep in step with others. We should instead move toward achieving great national unity, literally transcending the differences in thought, ideologies, and systems, trusting our fellow country.

If as in the past we mutually reject the other side, regarding it as a heretic simply because of differences in thoughts, systems, and this and that, what result can we expect except the utter division and disorganization of our people? We should never allow this kind of life to repeat itself.

This time around, the respected and beloved President Kim Il-song, pointing out this question, stressed that we should unite decisively based on the ideals of national reunification—that is, national ideals; and that the North and South should move toward broad politics—that is, aspiring for great national unity and patriotism.

These three points are the key points of his talk.

In conclusion, the respected and beloved president clearly said again that the DPRK Government will implement the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearization faithfully and without fail, officially stating that he will do his best for a successful embodiment of the agreement and declaration.

That is what I wanted to let you know first.

Next, I will talk about the substance of discussions at the sixth round of high-level talks that just ended.

Since the basic process of the two-day talks has been made public, I will not repeat it. I presume that you all know the basic assertions and views expressed by the two sides.

One thing I would like to note is how we can affirmatively summarize the sixth round of talks. We see two aspects of the talks.

One is that effectuation of the [North-South] agreement, joint declaration, and agreement on the formation and operation of subcommittees is not the result of only negotiations and compromise between the North and the South or technical negotiations between the two sides. We should keenly realize this.

These documents of agreement are based on the common national awareness and idea that the North and the South should not pursue confrontation but reconcile and that they should not prolong division but should achieve reunification by seeking peace instead of war.

In other words, today's success has been achieved totally on the basis of this common national ideal. Therefore, we consider this a triumph of the national ideal for independence and common national victory, not victory for any one side nor victory for one side's ideas and system.

The truth that blood is thicker than water was again confirmed during the current talks. We attach great significance to this.

Next, the second summarization of the current talks is that a series of concrete steps were taken to ensure the success of future high-level talks. Concerning this, both sides agreed on a joint communique during the discussions held in a closed meeting after the keynote speeches made by the two sides. [passage omitted]

However, one cannot say that the current talks were 100-point talks during which all accumulated issues were resolved to both sides' satisfaction. Each side has confirmed that there were still some differences in views.

I will now speak on the differences in views of both sides. First, as the head of our side's delegation elucidated in his keynote speech, the issue of comfort girls, which evoked indignation in all fellow countrymen, and Japan's attempt at nuclear armament are of common interest to both the North and the South. The South side, in actuality, raised the issue of compensation. Therefore, we proposed that the North and the South jointly raise these issues with Japan in compliance with today's new condition in which the North and the South agreed to jointly advance overseas.

Concerning these issues, the South side expressed the view that there is no need to cope with them jointly. Therefore, we have confirmed that there are still some issues in connection with cooperation in external matters and with the issue of outside forces that require our side's deliberation. We think this is regrettable.

We urged the South side to review these issues and present the result in the next talks.

Next, the South side, with extraordinary concern about the nuclear issue, called for nuclear inspections in its assertions, at the just-ended talks. We stressed that international nuclear inspection with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is a question we will discuss and settle with the IAEA, going through the procedures of domestic ratification since we have signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the IAEA. It is not something in which the South side can meddle.

As for model nuclear inspections of the North and the South, we said that when the North-South joint nuclear control committee is formed at the second round of contacts slated for 27 February, this issue will certainly be discussed according to relevant procedures. Thus, appropriate procedures and methods will be discussed sufficiently there.

We held the delegates' contact yesterday. At this contact, the South side raised the issues of separated families, installing a direct telephone line between both sides' premiers, and suspending slander and defamation of a certain personage. The South side proposed that these issues be resolved in the delegates' contact rather than in full-dress talks.

These questions will be resolved when subcommittees are formed; however, we expressed our readiness to accept and resolve them. We stressed that if we are to implement these issues as a model, appropriate steps—rather than raising such issues as installing a direct telephone line between the premiers, which was not included in the agreement—should be taken so that the figures who visited the North and contacted people there are not punished under the laws, in conformity with today's new condition.

We proposed that together with visiting groups of separated families, the North and the South exchange art troupes to perform in the others' sides.

We also proposed that both sides agree on suspension of joint military exercises with foreign troops.

The South side, however, did not give a clear position on our proposals. Thus, no further progress was made in the discussions.

I may say that these were the points that showed differences in our views. However, I believe that appropriate measures will be sought in the future to solve these problems if the two sides continue sincere discussions.

I would like to stress again that we will faithfully and consistently implement the documents of the agreement, proceeding from the position of great national unity, independence, and peace.

Joint Communique Issued

OW2002164692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1603 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—A joint communique on the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks was published here today.

Its text is as follows:

The North and the South effectuated the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" and signed and effectuated the "Agreement on the Formation and Operation of Subcommittees of the inter-Korean high-level talks" at the sixth inter-Korean high- level talks which opened in Pyongyang on February 19, 1992.

At the historic talks the North and the South pledged to sincerely implement the North-South agreement and the joint declaration on denuclearisation and agreed that:

1. The North and the South shall inform each other of the names of the chairmen and members of the North-South political subcommittee, the North-South military subcommittee and the North-South cooperation and exchange subcommittee on March 6, 1992.

2. The North and the South shall open the first meeting of the North-South political subcommittee at the "House of Peace" in the South side's portion of Panmunjom on March 9, 1992.

3. The North and the South shall open the first meeting of the North-South military subcommittee at the "Tongil House" in the North side's portion of Panmunjom on March 13, 1992.

4. The North and the South shall open the first meeting of the North-South cooperation and exchange subcommittee at the "House of Peace" in the South side's portion of Panmunjom on March 18, 1992.

5. The North and the South shall hold the second contact of delegates to discuss the matter of forming and operating the North- South nuclear control joint committee at the "Tongil House" in the North side's portion of Panmunjom on February 27, 1992, following the first contact on February 19, 1992.

6. The North and the South shall hold the seventh inter-Korean high-level talks in Seoul from May 5 to 8, 1992.

SPA Chairman Views Talks

SK2002161392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1552 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA), arranged a party at the Okryu Restaurant this evening for the delegation of the South side to the 6th inter-Korean high-level talks.

Invited there were the members of the South side's delegation with Chong Won-sik as chief delegate, the suite and reporters of the South side.

Present were the members of the North side's delegation headed by premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk, the suite, vice-chairmen of the SPA and officials of the standing committee of the SPA, the Central People's Committee, the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, commissions and ministries under the Administration Council, working people's organisations and educational, science, public health and cultural organs.

Chairman Yang Hyong-sop addressed the party.

Pointing out that the proclamation of the effectuation of the agreed documents including the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" in Pyongyang to the world was a very significant thing, he said that the tundra of mistrust and confrontation which had been frozen thick for nearly half a century after the division of the country has eventually entered the thawing season of reconciliation and cooperation.

The announcement by the the North and the South of the effectuation of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation reflects the aspirations of the fellow countrymen who want to shape the road of their destinies by the joint efforts of the nation in view of the rapidly changing situation: It is a crystal of the desire and resourcefulness of the nation, he stressed.

He further said:

At this moment when we are taking the first historical step toward reconciliation, peace and reunification with the effectuation of the North-South agreements, we should successfully implement with sincerity and fidelity the items agreed upon by the both sides and widen the road to reunification.

All the practices and efforts to implement the North-South agreements must be directed and subordinated to national reunification.

The united efforts of the North and the South must be focused on confirming the reasonable way of reunification at an early date, he noted, and stressed:

We are convinced that the authorities will take the initiative in and actively help the work of confirming the most reasonable way of reunification through national negotiations for reunification.

The chief delegate of the South side spoke next.

He expressed heartfelt thanks for this grand party for the South side delegation and suite and called for developing today's joy into emotion of reunification.

ROK Prime Minister's Remarks Noted

SK2002160192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1540 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA)—The second-day session of the 6th inter-Korean high-level talks was held at the People's Palace of Culture today.

Present there were the North side's delegation headed by Premier Yon Hyong-muk and the South side's delegation headed by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik.

Premier Yon Hyong-muk made a keynote speech at the session.

Then followed a keynote speech of Prime Minister Chong Won-sik.

Noting that the effectuation of the South-North agreement marked an occasion in paving the way of peaceful reunification while promoting "co-existence and co-prosperity", he stressed the need for both sides to confirm that the agreement came as a result of the independent efforts of the North and the South based on the principle of solving matters by their own efforts and that it became possible to put an end to the long-standing antagonism and confrontation, usher in a new era of reconciliation and cooperation and ease the tensions between the North and the South and bring peace to settle in this land.

He also called for confirming that the agreement is aimed at building the national community through "co-existence and co-prosperity" by strengthening exchange and cooperation in the economy and all other spheres, at laying the foundation for peaceful reunification and achieving it at an earlier date.

And he recalled the "Korea national community unification formula" brought forward by the chief executive of the South side the keynote of which is "anti-communist unification" and the creation of "two Koreas".

Saying the practical will to implement the agreement may be shown through the settlement of the "separated families issue," he shelved the political and military problems which are clearly laid down as important issues in the agreement.

He said that the effectuation of the South-North agreement and the formation of three subcommittees do not automatically lead to the solution of the questions of removing the political and military confrontation and of realising many-sided exchange and cooperation. Which should be solved at the inter-Korean high-level talks, describing it as a second-stage task and function of the inter-Korean high-level talks.

And he outlined his side's views regarding the period of the high-level talks and the operation of subcommittees and joint committee.

He said that in order to carry into practice the agreement it is necessary to "remove the danger of nuclear war" on the Korean peninsula, but he mentioned not a word about how many nuclear weapons the United States had deployed in South Korea and when it withdrew all of them from there. He also failed to vow to discontinue nuclear war exercises with the United States against the DPRK in the future.

South Team Departs, Issues Statement

SK2102045692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—The delegation of the South side and its suite left Pyongyang today by train after participating in the 6th North-South high-level talks.

Head of the North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, saw off the members of the South side's delegation with Prime Minister Chong Won-sik as chief delegate at the Paekhwa Guest House where it has been staying.

The South side's delegation released a statement upon departure from Pyongyang:

It expressed in the statement deep thanks to the Pyongyang citizens and compatriots in the North for their cordial hospitality to it during its stay in Pyongyang. The South side's delegation, it said, is leaving for Seoul with hopes for the future of the nation and compatriotism after the Pyongyang talks.

Members of the North side's delegation to the inter-Korean high-level talks accompanied the South side's delegation to see it off at Panmunjom.

The South side's delegation and its suite are to return to the South side's area at noon today.

Withdrawal of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Viewed

SK2102105992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 21 Feb 92

["KCNA Report on Victory in the Struggle for Withdrawal of U.S. Nuclear Weapons and Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 21 (KCNA)—The Korean Central News Agency Thursday [20 February] published a report "On Brilliant Victory in the Struggle for the Withdrawal of U.S. Nuclear Weapons and Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," which reads in full:

The "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" which was agreed upon and adopted between the North and the South came into effect along with the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" as from February 19, 1992, when the 6th inter-Korean high-level talks has opened.

This is an epoch-making event in the struggle to create favorable conditions for peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula and a result of the consistent and patient efforts of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Considering it a matter of vital importance for the nation, a matter of key importance for a peaceful reunification of the country to get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and denuclearize the Korean peninsula, we have made unremitting efforts for nearly 40 years. The adoption and publication of the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," a fruition of our painstaking efforts, strikingly demonstrates once again the validity of the peaceloving policy of the WPK and the government of our republic, and it eloquently tells that nothing on earth can dampen the aspirations of the 70 million fellow countrymen for peaceful reunification.

Its adoption and publication will be greatly conducive not only to peace and peaceful reunification of our country but also to a lasting peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

1. Nuclear Problem on the Korean Peninsula and its Latent Danger

The nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula was entirely a product of the U.S. policy of building nuclear bases in South Korea.

It began with the introduction of Honest John, a nuclear missile, into South Korea in the latter half of the 1950's and became all the more serious in the shipment of neutron bombs, a "devilish weapon of the 20th century," in the first half of the 1980's.

Disregarding paragraph 61 of the Korean armistice agreement stipulating that "amendments and additions to this armistice agreement must mutually agreed to by the commanders of the opposing sides," the United States unilaterally abrogated subparagraph 13d of the agreement which prohibits the introduction into Korea of reinforcing combat equipment and materiel in June 1957 and then set about the introduction and deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea.

As far as the deployment of nuclear weapons is concerned, the United States is following the "neither confirming nor denying" (NCND) policy, but it did not bother to conceal the fact that nuclear weapons had been deployed in South Korea.

According to an AP [Associated Press] report from Washington on May 14, 1957, the then U.S. Secretary of State Dulles hintingly told reporters that day about the U.S. plan of shipping nuclear weapons in South Korea, and U.S. Secretary of Defense Wilson told a press conference on the same day that the inventory of nuclear weapons mentioned by Dulles included various nuclear missiles including Honest John deployed in the European region.

The Tongyang News Agency reported from Washington on July 15, 1957, that the U.S. Army authorities officially announced that day that they would set about the nuclear arming of the U.S. Forces stationed in South Korea and that five combat units capable of fighting an atomic war would be in South Korea. On the same day, AP reported from Tokyo that Decker, the then U.S. Eighth Army Commander and concurrently "U.N. Forces commander," confirmed this announcement of the U.S. Army authorities.

According to reports of Hapdong, Tongyang and REUTER from Uijongbu on February 3, 1958, the United States brought out two 280 mm atomic guns and two Honest John nuclear missiles due to be deployed in South Korea to the airfield of the U.S. First Army near Uijongbu that day and opened them to reporters, staging a parade in the presence of the then U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Dowling and South Korean "Defense Minister" Kim Chong-yol.

Earlier, on January 29 that year, the United States officially announced the introduction of 280 mm atomic guns and Honest John nuclear missiles in South Korea in the name of the "U.N. Forces Command."

REUTER reported from Seoul on December 16, 1958, that the United States announced through the "U.N. Forces Command" that day that the "U.N. Forces" in South Korea were armed with nuclear-capable Matador missiles.

JIJI press reported from Washington on June 20, 1975, that the then U.S. Secretary of Defense Schlesinger said at a press conference that day, "I think you know that we are deploying tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea."

According to a Hapdong Report from Washington on June 3, 1975, the fact that more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons and 54 nuclear-capable planes had been deployed in South Korea was made known officially at a meeting of the U.S. House of Representatives held on May 30 that year to deliberate on the defense budget for 1976.

South Korea was reduced to a nuclear powder keg, turned into a U.S. nuclear show window in the Far East in the real sense of the word, consequent upon the introduction and deployment of various nuclear weapons for nearly 40 years.

Defense Monitor, a magazine published by the U.S. Defense Information Centre, said in its January, 1981, issue that the nuclear warheads deployed by the United States in South Korea included 80 nuclear warheads for Honest John, 192 tactical nuclear bombs for fighter-bombers, 152 nuclear shells for 155 mm howitzers and 56 nuclear shells for 8 inch howitzers.

Many capitalist media including the NEW YORK TIMES on May 6, 1983, reported that the United States shipped in South Korea even 56 neutron bombs whose deployment had been rejected by European and other countries, and introduced field portable backpack nukes there in quantities.

The South Korean newspaper HANGUK ILBO on November 15, 1986, quoted the U.S. Defense Department as announcing that the United States deployed battalion size Lance nuclear missiles in South Korea for the first time overseas except for Europe.

Thus, the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea numbered one per 100 square kilometres in terms of the density of their deployment, four times as much as that of the NATO embracing 15 countries, and their total explosive power was 13,010 kilotons, or more than 1,000 times that of the A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in August, 1945.

The fact that this enormous nuclear powder magazine was not in a dormant state became the main factor that made peace on the Korean peninsula extremely unstable.

This is illustrated by the fact that "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war against our republic, were staged repeatedly for 16 years from 1976 and all the nuclear weapons from B-52 nuclear-capable strategic bombers to F-16 tactical nuclear fighter-bombers and from medium-range Lance nuclear missiles to backpack nukes of the "green berets" were brought to full gear against our republic in the war games.

The outbursts of nuclear blackmail against us that rolled off the tongues of U.S. high-ranking military authorities pushed the situation to a more grave phase.

According to a Hapdong report from Honolulu on May 27, 1976, the then U.S. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld told a press conference that day that "the United States would not rule out the use of nuclear weapons in another Korean war." And the South Korean CBS and Radio Tongyang on June 10, 1977, quoted the commander of the U.S. Air Force stationed in South Korea as saying that the U.S. Air Force based in Osan and Kunsan was building nuclear bomb-dropping capabilities and "there are possibilities that the United States will use nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula."

The South Korean newspaper PUSAN ILBO on January 23, 1983, quoted U.S. Army chief of staff Edward Meyer as saying "if a war broke out on the Korean peninsula, the United States would use tactical nuclear weapons." Earlier, on August 11, 1981, the Washington correspondent of YOMIURI SHIMBUN quoted U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Benjamin Willes as suggesting the Korean peninsula as an area where the United States might use neutron bombs.

The conversion of South Korea into a nuclear base, a testing ground for nuclear war posed a direct threat to peace not only on the Korean peninsula but in Asia and the rest of the world. This was borne out by the large number of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, by the fact that the operational radius of the nuclear-capable strategic and tactical bombers mobilized in the nuclear war games in South Korea went far beyond the boundaries of the Korean peninsula, and especially by the fact that E-4b, a nuclear war command plane, was involved in the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Calling attention to the fact that E-4b made its debut in the "Team Spirit 81," the Japanese ASAHI SHIMBUN on March 19, 1987, said: "E-4b, a "nuclear command plane," flew in for a simulated total nuclear war... As far as E-4b, a "nuclear war command plane under extreme situation," is concerned, it is to move always with the President and, in case the command is destroyed in a nuclear war the top brain will be aboard it to command the nuclear war." And the paper quoted a military analyst as saying: "'Team Spirit' is assuming a deeper colouring year after year as exercises not confined to the Korean peninsula but geared to global strategy. The flight of E-4b can be seen as intended for an exercise simulating a total nuclear war."

The nuclear threat to us became all the more grave due to persistent moves of the "Yusin regime" aimed at developing nuclear weapons.

The chief executive of the "Yusin regime" committed a criminal act of seeking the development of nuclear weapons as a means of "security for power" filling the gap to be caused by the U.S. troop pullout which was brought up for discussion at that time.

According to the June, 1991, issue of the South Korean magazine SINDONG-A, the chief executive of the "Yusin regime" said in an interview with THE WASHINGTON POST on June 13, 1975, that "if the United States removed its nuclear umbrella, South Korea would develop nuclear weapons."

Pak Chong-hi did not confine himself to talking but tackled down in real earnest to the development of nuclear weapons.

The October, 1983, issue of the South Korean magazine WOLGAN CHOSON in a lengthy article titled "Pak Chong-hi and Carter" said that the "Yusin regime" sought the invitation of nuclear physicists from the United States and the purchase of reactors from various countries for the purpose of nuclear development in the early 1970s, established an atomic energy technical project and an industrial zone for the development of nuclear fuel in 1976 and began to construct on an extensive scale research facilities for the development of atomic energy technologies in the central sector of South Korea from 1977. This research zone was, indeed, a nuclear arms development centre whose construction was undertaken by Pak Chong-hi, urged by wild ambition, and the production of nuclear fissionable material by use of experimental reactors and the development of delivery means of nuclear warheads were promoted here, wrote the magazine.

According to the February, 1985, issue of the South Korean magazine KUKJE MUNJE (International Affairs), South Korea was capable of annually extracting 139 to 167 kilograms of plutonium 239 already in early 1978 when it began to operate the Kori nuclear power station. This amount of plutonium was enough to produce 23 to 28 20 kiloton-class nuclear bombs, remarked the magazine.

The fact that South Korea had already developed guided missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads compelled our people to watch the situation with heightened vigilance.

Clamorously reporting about the launching test of a guided missile at a base on September 26, 1978, the South Korean central radio that day called attention to the fact that the chief executive of the "Yusin regime" and the then commander of the U.S. Eighth Army Vessey personally watched the test on the spot. The South Korean magazine WOLGAN CHOSON in its October, 1983, issue, carried an article about this launching test, quoting a foreign newspaper as assessing this as "a prediction of the start of the production of nuclear weapons in South Korea in the near future." And a JIJI press report from Washington on October 2, 1978, introducing a commentary of the U.S. magazine AVIATION WEEKEND SPACE TECHNOLOGY on the test, said that if this guided missile were deployed in the area along the Military Demarcation Line (MDL), the central area of the northern half of Korea would be exposed to a direct threat.

Thus, the moves for the development of nuclear weapons in South Korea remained an open secret.

TASS reported from Washington on November 16, 1978: "The South Korean 'regime' is taking great pains to possess nuclear weapons. As can be seen clearly in a report of the U.S. House International Relations Committee, South Korea carried out her secret program for the development of nuclear arms slated till 1975. This program was executed under the guidance of a special clandestine group directly under the dictator Pak Chong-hi." According to the South Korean central radio on November 11, 1980, the U.S. Brookings Institution in a report published on November 9 that year "Nuclear Proliferation and U.S. Diplomatic Policy" said it is South Korea and Japan that are capable of possessing nuclear weapons within 10 years to come.

Such developments in South Korea made our people sound an alarm against the danger of thermo-nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and rise in the struggle to ward off a nuclear war.

2. Our People's Unremitting Anti-Nuke Struggle for Peace

In no case was the nuclear threat posed by the United States to us on the plea of "nuclear umbrella protection" of South Korea justifiable.

It was all the more so, above all, in view of the resolution passed at the U.N. Security Council meeting on June 19, 1968, in which the United States itself participated as one of the initiators.

According to this resolution which was passed, conditional on guarantee of security for the signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the nuclear weapon states shall provide "nuclear umbrella" protection for those who have no nuclear arms only in case they are under a nuclear attack or exposed to a nuclear threat.

As publicly recognized, however, South Korea has never been exposed to a nuclear threat from the North, and it was inconceivable that South Korea felt a nuclear threat since the North has never possessed nuclear arms. Hence, it was entirely contradictory to the U.N. resolution to regard the so-called "threat" from the North which has no more than conventional weapons as grounds to offer the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" to South Korea.

The U.S. "nuclear umbrella" over South Korea was unreasonable also in view of the declaration of the U.S. President at the U.N. on June 12, 1978. The declaration said the United States shall not use nuclear weapons barring the cases of nuclear attack on itself and its "allies" and, especially, shall refrain from the use of them against the countries which have no nuclear arms.

It was contrary to this declaration, from the beginning, that the United States threatened us which have no nuclear arms for a long time by providing South Korea with the "nuclear umbrella".

We did not cease our anti-nuke struggle even a moment, regarding it as a matter of importance related to the survival of the nation to remove this nuclear threat made to us for a long time.

Already at the 12th session of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) in November, 1956, we clarified our official stand against the introduction of nuclear weapons into South Korea. Later, when the United States attempted to unilaterally scrap subparagraph 13d of the Korean Armistice Agreement in an effort to introduce nuclear weapons in South Korea, we demanded a halt to such a move as keying up the tensions on the Korean peninsula through a statement of the DPRK foreign minister dated May 30, 1957.

We held in the statement that for a peaceful reunification of Korea and relaxation of the tensions in the Far East every provision of the armistice agreement must be observed strictly and practical steps be taken on all accounts to turn the cease-fire into a durable peace.

At the first session of the second Supreme People's Assembly in September, 1957, we again called for strictly observing the provisions of the armistice agreement and replacing the armistice by a lasting peace and repeatedly demanded that South Korea's conversion to a nuclear base of the United States not be allowed. And at the 91st meeting of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) on December 19, 1958, and at the 100th MAC meeting on April 27, 1959, we lodged a strong protest against the introduction of nuclear missiles in South Korea and demanded that the United States immediately pull out of South Korea its forces and all the nuclear weapons it introduced illegally including nuclear missiles and atomic guns.

In the 1960s and 1970s, too, we repeatedly clarified our just stand against South Korea's conversion to a nuclear base at meetings of the SPA, the North-South Coordinating Committee and the MAC and on many other occasions.

We also fought with heightened vigilance against the moves to develop nuclear weapons in South Korea. A Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement published on December 20, 1974, called attention to such moves in South Korea and cautioned against them.

Our anti-nuke struggle became all the more vigorous in the 1980s when the danger of thermo-nuclear war on the Korean peninsula increased still further due to repeated "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a test nuclear war, and it developed in content into a struggle for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and other areas of Northeast Asia.

The Workers' Party of Korea, together with the Japan Social-Democratic Party, published in Pyongyang on March 16, 1981, a joint declaration on creating nuclear-free, peace zones in the Northeast Asian region.

The declaration called for the withdrawal and destruction of all the nuclear weapons deployed in the Northeast Asian region and for a total ban on the development, testing, production, possession, transport, stockpiling, production and use of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons in this region.

It defined Korea, Japan and their surrounding waters as falling within the range of nuclear-free peace zones in Northeast Asia.

The Central People's Committee and the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK held a joint meeting on January 10, 1984, at which they adopted and sent letters to the U.S. Administration and Congress and to the Seoul authorities.

The letters proposed to hold tripartite talks, the South Korean authorities, a party responsible for the growing tensions on the Korean peninsula, participating in talks between the DPRK and the United States to discuss measures for removing the danger of a nuclear war and creating preconditions for a peaceful solution of the Korean question.

The 3rd session of the 7th SPA of the DPRK held on January 25 that year discussed the question of providing a guarantee for peace in Korea and accelerating the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and called for an international movement for the withdrawal of all the nuclear weapons from South Korea and conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone in order to curb the daily growing danger of a nuclear war in Korea.

In a joint statement published on December 8, 1985, the political parties and public organizations of the DPRK welcomed the agreement on the questions of realizing nuclear disarmament and preventing a nuclear war which was reached in principle at the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Geneva, and urged the United States to pull its nuclear weapons out of South Korean and consent to turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone if it really wanted peace.

The DPRK signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in December 1985 with a view to thoroughly carrying into effect its peaceloving policy of turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone, and has since furthered its peace initiatives.

The DPRK Government solemnly declared in a statement published on June 23, 1986, that the republic would neither test, produce, stockpile and introduce nuclear weapons, nor permit the installation of any foreign military base such as nuclear base, nor allow foreign nuclear weapons to pass through its territory, airspace and waters.

The statement also urged the U.S. Administration to take steps to cease the introduction of sophisticated nuclear weapons in South Korea, reduce all the nuclear weapons already deployed there on a phased basis and, furthermore, to completely withdraw them and cancel all the operational plans concerning the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula, in keeping with the desire of our people and the world's peaceloving people to see the Korean peninsula turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

It declared that if the U.S. Administration and the South Korean authorities found it necessary to hold negotiations over our proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free, peace zone, the DPRK Government would accede to negotiations any time, irrespective of their form.

Thus, we have always taken new initiatives.

In the meantime, we did not merely wait for the other party to respond to our initiatives, but developed our peace initiatives still further in order to bring conditions to maturity for the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The DPRK in a statement of its Foreign Ministry dated July 13, 1987, reiterated its stand regarding practical measures to create a nuclear-free, peace zone on the Korean peninsula and provide a sure guarantee for its status as such.

In the statement we demanded again that the United States withdraw all the nuclear weapons from South Korea and promise to cancel all its operational plans involving the use of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and, at the same time, urged Japan not to allow her territory to be reduced to a nuclear launching base, a relay base and a supply base of other countries against the Korean peninsula. It also called upon all the nuclear states to cease from all military actions that might cause a nuclear war in the Korean peninsula and its environs and to refrain from threatening the Korean peninsula with nuclear weapons. It urged the South Korean authorities to get foreign nuclear weapons and their delivery means withdrawn and all military bases including nuclear bases dismantled from their areas and to refrain from the introduction, stockpiling, development and possession of nuclear weapons in the future and not to allow foreign nuclear weapons to pass through South Korea.

In another statement dated July 23, 1987, the DPRK Government took a peace-oriented patriotic initiative to the effect that the balance of forces between the North and the South of Korea should be maintained by way of mutual arms reduction, not through mutual arms build-up.

The statement proposed in a flexible manner that the U.S. Forces present in South Korea be withdrawn stage by stage in step with the phased cut of the Armed Forces of the North and the South and that when the Armed Forces of the two parts of Korea have been reduced respectively to 100,000 men the United States withdraw all its Armed Forces including nuclear weapons and military bases from South Korea.

In order to make a breakthrough for practical arms cut on the Korean peninsula, we declared that the Korean People's Army would be slashed by 100,000 men unilaterally by the end of 1987, and honestly carried it into effect.

The standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly held a meeting on July 20, 1988, at which it adopted a draft North-South joint declaration on nonaggression which we had repeatedly proposed, and sent it to the South side.

Not confining ourselves to it, we proposed a peace package to accelerate the independent and peaceful reunification of the country at a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the standing committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council held on November 7, 1988. And another meeting of the aforesaid bodies held on May 31, 1990, put the peace package set out in November 1988 into a concrete form to suit the specific conditions and advanced a proposal newly specifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, adoption of a North-South nonaggression declaration and other initiatives.

Our peace initiatives reflecting the desire of all the fellow countrymen won full approval and support of the broad peace-loving people of the world.

This is borne out by the fact that the "Pyongyang International Conference for Denuclearization and Peace on the Korean Peninsula," "International Conference for Denuclearization, Peace and Anti-Imperialist Solidarity in the Asia-Pacific Region," "International Conference on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific" and "International Conference for Disarmament, Cooperation and Development in the Asia-Pacific" were held in Pyongyang in succession from 1986 to 1990 and declarations and "resolutions in Korea" expressing militant solidarity with our people in the struggle for the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and the adoption of a North-South Nonaggression Declaration were adopted at the conferences.

3. Historical Achievement in the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula

We proposed through a statement of the Foreign Ministry dated July 30, 1991, that the North and the South discuss all the legal and practical matters regarding the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and adopt a joint declaration which would take effect before the end of 1992 at the latest.

Thanks to our sincere efforts, this joint declaration was finally initialed at the end of 1991 and formally signed in January 1992, not the end of 1992, to the delight of the 7 million fellow countrymen who aspire after reunification and it was effectuated at the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks.

The process of the struggle for the adoption of the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" meant for us a process of the struggle to defend independence.

An entirely unjustifiable demand for "nuclear inspection" of unilateral nature was made against us at a time when the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was put on the order of the day as a matured question.

This unilateral demand was "grounded" on the "suspicion" of fictitious "development of nuclear weapons" by us, and it was aimed at diverting elsewhere the attention of the broad public who extended support and encouragement to our resolute anti-nuke struggle. Threats to use Armed Forces if we did not comply with this demand burst forth from the South Korean military authorities and similar tones were struck in the United States and Japan.

All this, however, could not overpower us who regard independence as what keeps us alive.

We laid bare the unjust nature of the demand for unilateral "nuclear inspection" of us and clarified our principled stand regarding the nuclear inspection in a joint statement of the political parties and public organizations of the DPRK published on June 10 last year, in a statement and a press statement of the Foreign Ministry spokesman on September 28 and November 12 and in a statement of the Foreign Ministry on November 25.

We made it clear that our aim in signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was to get the U.S. nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and remove the nuclear threat to us and, further, to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, and held that nuclear inspection should not be made of us alone who have no nuclear arms, but the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea should be opened to the public and an inspection be made of them. And we clarified our readiness to sign the nuclear safeguards accord if the United States withdrew its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Drawing on this argument, we brought forward as an urgent proposal at the fourth inter-Korean high-level talks held in Pyongyang in October last year a draft "Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" the keynote of which is that the North and the South shall refrain from the testing, production, introduction, possession and deployment of nuclear weapons, jointly confirm the all-round and total withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons and the dismantlement of nuclear bases in the southern half of the Korean peninsula, implement their obligations to a simultaneous nuclear inspection based on the requirements of the international treaty and jointly declare the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at home and abroad. And it was reconfirmed at the fifth inter-Korean high-level talks held in Seoul in December last year.

When we brought forward the draft "declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula" as an urgent proposal, we stressed and made it clear that nuclear weapons existed in the South, not in the North of the Korean peninsula, and on no account could the North pose a nuclear threat to the South, but the nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea was threatening the North at all times, so the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula should begin by the total withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and this was the main content of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

This argument of ours evoked widespread sympathy from the public and, under such circumstances, the United States again admitted that its nuclear weapons were deployed in South Korea for war purposes and announced that it would withdraw them, although it talked about "maintaining" the "NCND" policy. And, though belatedly, the South Korean side could not but publish a "denuclearization declaration" accepting the provisions we had proposed on November 8 last year on refraining from the manufacture, possession, stockpiling and deployment of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula.

Then, at the end of November last year, the United States informed the world of the start of the pullout of nuclear weapons from South Korea through various channels. And the completion of the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons was suggested by the announcement of the South Korean chief executuve that "even a single nuclear arms does not exist" anywhere in South Korea as of December 18 last year and this was confirmed when the U.S. side recognized this announcement.

Thus, our consistent struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea came to bear a fruit, and the main stumbling block lying in the way of our signing the nuclear safeguards accord came to be removed.

A spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry in a statement published in this regard on December 22 last year stressed that if South Korea was cleared of nuclear weapons, it meant that our consistent, just demand was met at last and this signified a great victory of our nation in the resolute struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and for the removal of the danger of nuclear war. The statement called upon the North and the South to adopt a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula without delay.

The historical "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" thus came into being thanks to our active struggle, delighting the 70 million fellow countrymen who aspire after a peaceful reunification of the country.

Through our resolute struggle we made the U.S. nuclear weapons withdraw from South Korea and won assurances that a simultaneous inspection including verification of the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea will be made. This historical victory won in the long, drawn-out struggle we have waged without letup since the United States deployed nuclear arms in South Korea filled our people with greater national pride and confidence.

The adoption and effectuation of the "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" along with the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" is now stirring up all the fellow countrymen with an ardent desire for reunification.

However, all this is no more than a mere beginning.

Whether this declaration is implemented to the letter or not depends on the patriotic attitude of both the North and the South sides.

Successful implementation of this declaration will also result in carrying out with credit the "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and making a breakthrough in opening the way of peaceful reunification.

The stand and attitude toward this declaration will be, indeed, a touchstone showing the will of the sides for peace and reunification.

We will honestly implement this declaration, invariably following the road of patriotism, and continue our efforts to make the Korean peninsula nuclear-free, peace zone.

'Faithful' Implementation of N-S Accord Urged

SK2102053792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0014 GMT 20 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN 20 February editorial: "Let Us Faithfully Implement the North-South Agreement and Joint Declaration To Open a Decisive Phase for the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of the Country"]

[Text] At the first-day session of the sixth round of North-South high level talks held in Pyongyang on 19 February, the North and the South confirmed and exchanged the information and documents on the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula for which the necessary procedures for effectuation had been completed, declared their effectuation, and adopted and effectuated the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of Subcommittees of the North-South High Level Talks.

Truly, this is a great victory attained in the struggle process of the entire nation to implement the three principles of fatherland reunification—independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity—and a historic event that brought forth a new landmark on the way to the realization of the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. This gives great joy to all the fellow countrymen who yearn for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification and to the peace-loving people of the world who desire peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

That the historic North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization has been officially effectuated and that the subcommittees of the North-South high level talks are to be formed and operated is a festive event for the entire nation that has opened a new breakthrough for peace and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Our people regard the effectuation of the historic North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration as an epoch-making event that gives hope for and belief in reunification to the entire nation yearning for the reunification of the fatherland, and actively support, welcome, and warmly congratulate it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Along with the 4 July North-South Joint Statement, the North-South agreement which has been adopted is the most just program for the reunification of the fatherland that correctly reflects the consistent demand of our nation who wish to reunify the fatherland independently and peacefully and the trend of the present times heading for independence and peace.

The North-South agreement, which has been effectuated, is a historic document of practical significance in realizing national reconciliation, preventing encroachment and conflict by force of arms, easing tensions and ensuring peace by ending the state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South and promoting common national interest and prosperity and accelerating the peaceful reunification of the country by realizing multi-faceted cooperation and exchange. The North-South joint denuclearization declaration is an important document of agreement eliminating the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, providing advantageous conditions and the environment for peace in the country and its reunification, and contributing to peace and security in Asia and the world.

With the effectuation of the North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, it is possible to end the danger of nuclear war and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula, to promote national unity between the North and the South on the basis of mutual trust, to realize unified development and the coprosperity of the country, and to reach a turning point in independent and peaceful reunification.

With the birth of the subcommittees for discussing and resolving specific measures concerning the faithful implementation of the North-South agreement, it is now possible to deepen discussions in various fields—political, military, economic, and cultural—to promote mutual trust and harmony and to open an advantageous phase for the fatherland reunification.

That the legally guaranteeing [popchok tamborul kajin] documents of the North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration were exchanged and their effectuation was proclaimed at the sixth North-South high-level talks is the shining result of the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has devoted his life to giving our nation a reunified fatherland, and to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader of our party and people, who is determined to bring forth the dawn of the fatherland reunification by all means in the 1990's, the times of our leader [suryongnim]. With an earnest desire to open a decisive phase for fatherland reunification in the 1990's—which the entire nation is determined to greet as a decade of reunification—the great leader and the dear comrade leader personally put forward the North-South high level talks headed by the premiers of the North and the South and took great care that the talks progressed successfully in conformity with the nation's will and expectations.

By upholding the profound ideas and intention of the great leader and dear comrade leader to successfully achieve the North-South high-level talks at any cost, our side's delegation put forward the most realistic and reasonable proposals, including the issue of nonaggression and denuclearization. Before the justness of our side's independent, patriotic, and reunification-pursuing position and sincere efforts, the South Korean side had to respond by adopting the joint documents of agreement [kongdongui habui munkon] and by declaring their effectuation.

The North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearization, which came into force this time, reflect the three principles for national reunification on independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expounded at an early date. They also contain the one-Korea line, the antiwar, antinuclear peace line and anti-outside forces line for independence which the Korean Workers Party [WPK] and the government of the Republic have consistently maintained.

The adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration for denuclearization is the first historic event since the publication of the 4 July joint statement and is a driving force which will vigorously encourage the nation's grand march for reunification in the 1990's.

The North and the South took the initial step toward the nation's peace and reunification in conformity with the desire of the fellow countrymen aspiring to reunification. What is left for the North and the South is to prove the practical worth of the agreement and joint declaration by respecting and faithfully implementing them.

The North-South agreement and the joint declaration for denuclearization are sacred agreements for the North and the South to resolve the issue of the nation's peace and reunification based on the driving force of the nation by uniting their strength. They are precious designs for opening a new chapter of reconciliation and peace.

The North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearization are a joint document of national agreement which thoroughly reflected the principle of national independence. Therefore, we should firmly maintain the nation's independent position, not the position of depending on outside forces.

Those who are striving to open the door of the nation's peace and reunification by implementing the North-South agreement and joint declaration should thoroughly reject the idea of relying on outside forces and should maintain the independent position which relies on the nation's independent forces.

The South Korean authorities should actively support and encourage the patriotic people who are striving to independently reunify the nation by opposing the interference of outside forces. They should no longer repress them.

It is a most urgent task which the North and the South should resolve with priority for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation to ensure a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

Only when the question of peace is resolved at an early date, can the nation be rescued from the danger of nuclear war and only when one throws away the sword embraced in the bosom and removes military confrontation, can national reconciliation and unity be attained on the basis of mutual trust and can cooperation and exchange be successfully realized.

The North and the South pledged nonaggression and jointly declared the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Therefore, they should discard the idea of confrontation so that this agreement and declaration can be faithfully implemented. They should abandon the use of armed force and peacefully resolve the confrontation of opinions and issues of disputes through dialogue and negotiations. They should realize disarmament in compliance with the spirit of the agreement and joint declaration, should ease tension, and should urgently take steps for turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

The question is for the North and the South to faithfully observe the pledge of nonaggression. We will respect the agreement and joint declaration and will make, in the future, all efforts to prevent the danger of nuclear war and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean authorities should faithfully implement the agreement and the joint declaration in active response to our consistent efforts for peace and should take the measures to suspend military buildup and war exercises which may aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula. What is urgently required for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is to realize reconciliation and unity between the North and the South.

The North and the South have agreed to recognize and respect the system that exists on the other side, not to interfere in the internal affairs of the other side, and not to abuse and slander the other side. These agreements are aimed at inspiring reunification, respecting the other side, and achieving reconciliation and unity as one nation. The reconciliation between the North and the South and the unity of the entire nation will lead precisely to national reunification to which we have aspired.

For the North and the South to achieve reconciliation and unity, it is important to do away with the deep-rooted consciousness of confrontation. The North and the South should discuss and take practical measures not to abuse and slander the other side but to recognize and respect the system that exists on the other side as promised in the agreement. Now that the North and the South have agreed to open the road of reunification through reconciliation and unity, the persons in authority of South Korea should rapidly take the step of abolishing antinational, fascist evil laws, such as the National Security Law, which regards us with hostility and which regards the patriotic reunification forces in South Korea as criminals, and should make a resolute decision for releasing, without delay, those reunification figures who visited the North.

The multilateral cooperation and exchange between the North and the South is of important significance in linking the severed national ties, in achieving the country's unified development, and in providing conditions favorable for national reunification. The cooperation and exchange between the two parts of our one nation, which was divided by foreign forces, should contribute to achieving national reunification. For this end, it is imperative to give priority importance to removing the state of political and military confrontation between the North and the South and, along with this, to adhere to the principle of developing cooperation and exchange.

Insisting on giving priority to exchange, apart from removing the state of political and military confrontation, is tantamount not wanting the exchange itself. To realize the multilateral cooperation and exchange between the North and the South, it is imperative to pull down the barrier of division built in South Korea to block cooperation and exchange and to eliminate all kinds of legal and institutional devices, such as the National Security Law, which constitute an obstacle to realizing free travel and total openness.

The reunification question in Korea is closely related to international relations. Therefore, cooperation from the countries concerned with the Korean question is necessary in implementing the North-South agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization for peace and reunification of Korea. Now that the North and the South have promulgated before the world through the agreement and the joint declaration the firm will to solve the country's peace and reunification with the nation's own strength and, thus, have agreed to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, the countries concerned should be (?faithful) to the joint declaration and provide active cooperation so that the joint declaration can be (?smoothly implemented).

The implementation of the North-South agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization will affirm the [words indistinct] and will of the two sides before all fellow countrymen and the world.

The North and the South should form and operate the subcommittees of North-South high-level talks and the joint nuclear control committee in a substantial manner and, thus, should faithfully implement the agreement and the joint declaration. Thus, they should open with certainty a turning point for reunification in the 1990's. By faithfully implementing the North-South agreement and the joint declaration in response to the expectation of the nation and the people of the world and by thoroughly fulfilling the reasonable reunification line of our party and the policy of North-South dialogue, we will make all possible efforts to guarantee a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and to expedite national reunification in the 1990's.

U.S. Plan To Use CIS Nuclear Experts Denounced

SK2102063692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0025 GMT 21 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN 21 February commentary: "U.S. Ambition for Nuclear Monopoly"]

[Text] U.S. ambition for exclusive possession of nuclear weapons is being more undisguisedly revealed. This is clearly shown by the fact that the United States is attempting to accelerate the Star Wars plan by using nuclear experts from the former Soviet Union while giving lip service to the need to prevent the movement of these experts overseas.

According to the broadcast of the Voice of America, the United States proposed to offer jobs to nuclear experts of the former Soviet Union with a view to preventing their moving to hostile nations.

As is known, many nuclear experts of the former Soviet Union lost their jobs and have been discarded because of their country's collapse. They want to maintain their livelihood even through employment in other countries.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, the United States and other Western countries are scheming to drag them to their countries with a view to using them for producing nuclear weapons.

Concerning this, a Romanian paper wrote that today's situation reminds one of the time when the United States and other countries welcomed nuclear experts from fascist Germany immediately after World War II.

The U.S. remarks about preventing nuclear experts of the former Soviet Union from moving abroad, offering jobs and so forth, are not designed to remove nuclear threat and to sympathize with them.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reported that the United States wants to obtain the former Soviet Union's advanced missile defense technology. Foreign news reports also said that, in order to actively push ahead with the plan for exclusive nuclear possession by controlling nuclear experts of the former Soviet Union, the United States is opposed to the overseas movement of the former Soviet Union's nuclear experts so that other countries cannot introduce nuclear technology. The reports commented that the United States is attempting to satisfy its own desire by dragging these experts to only the United States.

It is not an accident that voices resounded in the United States calling for bringing the former Soviet Union's nuclear experts to its side so that manufacturing of nuclear weapons by some countries, which desire to manufacture them, can be prevented.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, in actuality, began to investigate the real situation in the nuclear field of the former Soviet Union. U.S. Secretary of State Baker expressed the intention of hiring nuclear experts while making a junket to member nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS].

Progressive mankind wants to see the removal of the nuclear threat from the earth at an early date. For this, nuclear disarmament must be realized and nuclear weapons should be completely abolished.

Besides, the achievements in science and technology attained by mankind should be used only for peaceful purposes. Nevertheless, the United States is attempting to expedite the Star Wars plan by hiring foreign experts. This is indeed a vicious challenge to peace.

The U.S. imperialists' nuclear frenzy is increasing daily. The reactionary U.S. ruling circles should clearly realize that their maneuvers will evoke fiercer denunciation and rejection by the world's people.

South Korea

No Tae-u Urges Forming Joint Nuclear Committee

SK2102131892 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1100 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Report by (Hong Song-kyu)]

[Text] After hearing a briefing on the results of the sixth round of the South-North high-level talks by a delegation that included Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, President No Tae-u rated the effectuation of the South-North agreement and other documents as a historic event of having taken the first step on a long national march toward peaceful reunification.

President No Tae-u, however, said that it is indeed regrettable that no progress at all has been made in the settlement of the separated families during the just-concluded talks and that it has once again greatly disappointed the 10 million separated families, and then noted that if North Korea remains indifferent to the humanitarian exchange, the question of economic cooperation will not be smooth.

President No Tae-u repeatedly stressed: Reaching an agreement between the South and North is important, but more important is for the two sides to be faithful to the agreement.

President No Tae-u continued: If the formation of the joint nuclear control committee, which is expected to be formed before 18 March, is delayed for one reason or another, North Korea will provoke a great misunderstanding.

He then instructed that since it will have a serious impact on the activities of other subcommittees, this point must be made clearer to the North Korean side in the next Panmunjom contact between the delegations which is scheduled for 27 February.

At the same time, President No Tae-u said that reunification will not be achieved right away simply because we rashly try to achieve it and that it can be achieved somewhat earlier when we patiently make an effort as part of a long national march. He urged the delegation to adhere to the fundamental posture of dealing with South-North relations flexibly in the future, based on unshaken principle.

Reports Continue on Chong Won-sik's DPRK Visit

On Speech Noting 'New Chapter'

SK2102020692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Feb 92 p 1

["Gist" of speech by Chong Won-sik, ROK prime minister, at the sixth inter-Korean high-level talks in Pyongyang on 20 February]

[Text] At long last, a new chapter of the history of this land has been opened and will record an end to intra-Korean confrontation and mistrust and the beginning of a joint pursuit of national development and prosperity.

Now that both the South-North basic agreement and the joint declaration of denuclearization have entered into force, domestic and international attention is focused on whether or not those accords will be implemented as they should. The life of an agreement resides in its implementation.

I take this opportunity to make clear once more that in keeping with the spirit of the South-North basic agreement, our side will faithfully carry out agreed things under any circumstance. We expect you to act likewise in equal good faith.

My view is that the easiest way for both parties to show to the whole world, a tangible symbol of our determination to carry out the South-North basic agreement, is by solving the issue of separated families. Solving this most urgent humanitarian issue would be a hallmark of South-North reconciliation and improved relations.

Accordingly, we ought, first of all, to permit at least people aged 70 or older to visit their loved ones in the other area of Korea with the aim of alleviating their acute sorrow. This would doubtlessly enhance both domestic and international confidence that the South-North basic agreement will be implemented as intended.

I think it advisable to hold our future talks regularly four times a year, with the understanding that extraordinary sessions may additionally be convened as occasion demands.

As long as the threat of nuclear war persists, it will be impossible to move even an inch toward reconciliation, peace, exchanges and cooperation.

We cannot yet brush aside the nuclear threat even today, although your side has signed a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the joint declaration of denuclearization has entered into force.

This is because you have not yet substantiated with deeds your claim that you are not developing nuclear weapons, since you do not have the intention nor the ability to do so. You must not ignore the worldwide criticism that you are giving international inspection the runaround.

In that spirit, I urge you to take the following steps to fully dispel misgivings about whether the South-North agreement is really going to be implemented and also to completely free the Korean people from nuclear terror. First, your side should quickly ratify the nuclear safeguards agreement without any further delay, and present a specific timetable for full international nuclear inspection at the earliest possible date.

Second, I urge you once again to agree to pilot mutual nuclear inspection designed to demonstrate the determination to implement the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization, even before the planned joint Nuclear Control Commission sets forth detailed procedures and methods for inspection, and full scale South-North mutual inspections are conducted accordingly.

Third, a South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission must be formed quickly. In order for the planned commission to go into business within one month as prescribed in the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization, I believe that an agreement on its formation and functions should be adopted at this Sixth Round of South-North High-Level talks which the Prime Ministers from both sides are attending.

We must quickly join forces if we are to effectively meet the challenges of the changing world and promote common national interests.

I sincerely hope that all of us will be able to share the joy of having achieved peace and unification on our own before the present century is out.

On Meeting With Kim Il-song

SK2102093192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0834 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Panmunjom, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—The gist of what was said in the closed-door meeting between South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and North Korean President Kim Il-song at Kim's office in Pyongyang Thursday was released Friday.

Yi Tong-pok, spokesman for the Southern delegation to the sixth inter-Korean prime ministerial talks, released the text on the special train that carried the delegation from Pyongyang to Kaesong for the trip home.

Though the contents of the talks were not supposed to be made public, he was releasing them because some of what was said had already been leaked, Yi said.

"However, since some contents of the talks somehow leaked to North Korean press members, we have decided to make them public so as to eliminate any room for misunderstanding with regard to the talks," he said.

The exclusive meeting lasted 20 minutes from 11:05 a.m. prior to a lunch hosted by Kim Il-song for the South Korean delegates. It was also attended by senior presidential secretary Kim Chong-hwi from the South and by Premier Yon Hyong-muk and Im Chun-kil, special assistant to the premier, from the North.

Following is the gist of the conversation as released by Yi:

—Prime Minister Chong: Before leaving Seoul, President No Tae-u asked me to convey his sincere regards to you. President No is pleased at the effectuation of the basic South-North agreement and the joint declaration on non-nuclearization. I think it is the result of wise guidance and firm resolution on the part of the two top leaders.

—President Kim Il-song: I am glad to see you. When you return home, please tell President No that I am grateful to him. I, too, am pleased at the effectuation of the agreement and joint declaration.

—Chong: Premier Yon Hyong-muk worked hard.

—Kim: I think this meeting was a success. With accords in effect, we have entered an age of grand national unity.

—Chong: Agreement is important, but I think that what is more important is implementation.

—Kim: The era of confrontation is over now, and an age of cooperation, collaboration, exchanges and nonaggression has dawned.

—Chong: That is right. An age of enmity and confrontation has come to an end in favor of an age of reconciliation and cooperation.

—Kim: If unification comes true, our country will be big. If only the country is unified, there can be no reason for us to lag behind the advanced countries.

—Chong: With a population of 70 million on both sides, we are definitely a big nation. Besides, we are a nation with pride in our culture and technology.

—Kim: I am of the same opinion. The problem is that we should be reunified. Let us realize unification.

—Chong: We have made the first step toward unification.

—Kim: We should reap better fruits based on the accords. Let us uphold independence and national unity.

—Chong: In the agreement, we decided to resolve our problems independently regardless of alien forces under the spirit of the July 4th joint communique.

—Kim: We should do it by ourselves, without alien interference.

—Chong: That is right. We should resolve things peacefully. In this context, we should now exert joint endeavors to restore our homogeneity.

—Kim: Nothing has changed in the nation. Our words, letters and blood are same. We should transcend religion. Recently, I wrote a thesis on national grand unity. At any rate, we should not inquire about the past, and we should meet each other and get united.

—Chong: I think we should make mutual endeavors based on that principle.

—Kim: Unlike in the post-liberation years, there can be no pro-American, pro-Soviet or pro-Chinese now. We should realize unification in single mindedness. Only an extremely small number of people do not want unification.

—Chong: Our conviction is that although the country has been divided against our will, unification should be achieved with our own hands.

—Kim: Cooperation will be realized by itself if only we can unite.

—Chong: The problem is to dispel mutual distrust at an early date.

—Kim: Even distrust can be removed if we unite. Now that the issue of non-aggression has been resolved, we should unite and unify independently. We should unite by emptying everything of the past regardless of whether it is Chondo-kyo, Christianity, Confucianism or Marxism. President No issued a special statement on the effectuation of the basic accord. I, too, shall make a statement today.

On Arrival in 'Truce Village'

SK2102084992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Panmunjom, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and his 90-member delegation to the 6th inter-Korean prime ministers' conference in Pyongyang arrived in the southern side of this border village at 1:10 p.m. Friday.

Chong and the other South Korean delegates in cars and accompanying officials and reporters on foot crossed the demarcation line after arriving in the northern side of the truce village at 1:00 p.m.

Chong bid farewell to the North Korean officials—Choe U-chin and Choe Pong-chon—who accompanied him. He then shook hands with National Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung, who came out from Seoul to greet him.

After receiving bouquets of flowers from nine girls, Chong went into peace house and talked with Choe for about five minutes on his trip to the North.

Chong said he would like to describe his trip this time as a four-day journey filled with "tension and pressure," because of the sense of responsibility to carry out the important task of putting the two inter-Korean accords into effect.

Chong asked welcoming officials what was the general reaction to his activities in Pyongyang.

Chong then asked if there was any good news from the Winter Olympic Games in Albertville, France.

Told that South Korea won one gold, one silver and one bronze medal, Chong smiled and said: "It must have been the big news. We could finish the games ranking high among the participants."

—Shortly before leaving Pyongyang, Chong received photo albums containing pictures taken during the visit from his North Korean counterpart, Yon Hyong-muk. The two spent about 10 minutes bidding farewell.

Yon arrived in the guest house at 8:12 a.m., and spent a few minutes with seven South Korean delegates leafing through the photo albums before greeting Chong, who entered the room at 8:20 a.m.

Yon then handed an album to Chong saying, "please keep this as your family treasure. There are a lot of pictures that could remain as testimonies to the history of unification."

Sitting down, Chong asked Yon to reaffirm their resolution to carry out the spirit and contents of the two inter-Korean accords. And Yon replied: "We will."

Thereupon, Chong told yon that numerous armistice talks at the truce village of Panmunjom have dragged on for so long that the *OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY* defines the word "Panmunjom" as meaning "indecision and slow progress."

"Let us redefine that word to mean, 'overcoming difficulty'," Chong said.

—Chong and members of his delegation traveled by Mercedes Benz and other cars provided by North Korea to the Pyongyang Railway Station and got on their train right away.

The special train took three hours and 40 minutes from Pyongayng to Kaesong, just North of the demilitarized zone, arriving at 12:40 p.m.

In the guest coach there were bottles of Kumgang beer, soft drinks, some apples and pears and packets of cigarettes.

Chong, while talking to the North Korean officials accompanying him, answered questions posed by North Korean reporters.

He described the talks as meaningful and significant and told the reporters that he was returning to Seoul with hopes and wishes that the two sides will keep their promises faithfully.

—As Chong and his delegation arrived in the northern side of Panmunjom, the prime minister talked with North Korean spokesman An Pyong-su and Gen. Kim Kwang-chin about the inter-Korean accords and Thursday night's banquet in Pyongyang.

When An congratulated him on his successful trip to the North, Chong replied that he now felt a deeper sense of responsibility as the question of how to carry them out worried him.

Commenting on Thursday's banquet, An said he believed Chong was a heavy drinker.

"It appears that I got drunk last night since there was a relaxation of tension and I let myself go," Chong said.

On North Korean Position

SK2102121892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1204 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Chong Won-sik said Friday that he could not sense any basic change in North Korea's opinion during talks with North Korean President Kim Il-song.

Answering questions in an evening interview with the SBS-TV, Chong said, "I talked with Kim about various topics but it is my honest impression that there has been no basic change made in North Korea's contention."

The prime minister said neither the southern nor the North side came up with the issue of South-North Korean summit talks in the just-concluded sixth round of the inter-Korean high-level talks.

Editorial Cautions Against Capitalizing on Summit

SK2102065992 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 13 Feb 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The Date of the General Elections Should Not Be Used as a 'South-North Card'"]

[Text] The ruling and opposition parties are in a tug-of-war over the date of the general elections. The ruling party insists on holding the elections for the National Assembly members toward the end of March, while the opposition parties persistently demand that the elections be held in the latter half of April. When considered separately, the two sides seem to have their own logic.

Before discussing whether the different positions of the rival parties are logical and just, we would like to note a few apparent causes and principles that should not go unnoticed in deciding the date of the general elections.

First, in setting the date for the general elections, the ruling party should never try to link the date to a "South-North summit meeting" under any circumstances.

Well, no one in the ruling party has clearly hinted at linking the date of the general elections to the date of the North-South summit meeting. Nevertheless, those who have connections with the government and ruling party have long been saying publicly that the government and ruling party have decided to hold the general elections in the latter half of March. According to this school of thought, the government and ruling party would like to see the South-North summit meeting take place in mid-March and then hold the general elections at the end of March.

If the government intends to discuss and finalize with North Korea during Prime Minister Chong Won-sik's visit to Pyongyang on 18 February and during his meeting with Kim Il-song whether to hold a South-North summit meeting, it means that the date for the general elections will be decided largely by the North Korean side's agreement on the South-North summit meeting.

Such a thing should never be allowed to happen. Making political capital of the South-North card is obsolete and shameful. The fact that Kim Il-song can influence the date for the general elections is equally shameful and unacceptable to our public sentiment.

So, if the government and ruling party wants to avoid this kind of misunderstanding and criticism, it is absolutely necessary for the government and ruling party to agree with the opposition parties on the date for the general elections before Prime Minister Chong leaves for Pyongyang. Only then can the government and ruling party avoid the appearance of trying to link the date for the South-North summit meeting to that of the general elections.

If, conversely, the government and ruling party give the impression that they are going to set the date for the general elections based on a possible South-North summit meeting, it will not only be seen as a shameful behavior, but it also runs the risk of making the government and ruling party appear to be hatching a plot to bring about some changes that will affect the political situation as a whole.

Second, the opposition camps should also reconsider their insistence that the general elections be held at the end of April, which means that the election campaign will last about two and half a months.

With rival parties completing the nomination of candidates, the election campaign can be said to have begun. It may not be an exaggeration that the election campaign began in early January when the nomination began heating up. It is absolutely unreasonable to continue the campaign until the end of April.

If the fact that the 13th National Assembly has about 70 more days to go before the parliament formally closes poses any problem, as the opposition parties insist, they should have delayed the nomination of the candidates in the first place. Now that they have completed the nomination of candidates, their calling for the general elections at the end of April will convince no one.

Moreover, if the opposition parties insist on delaying the general elections with a view toward making political capital of the anniversary of the 19 April uprising, the struggle expected to be staged by trade unions in the spring for wage increases, and the student movement, they are not in a position to denounce the government and ruling party for trying to make the South-North card instrumental in the general elections. Thus, the rival parties should sit down together and agree on the date for the general elections at an early date.

IAEA Unlikely To Push North on Inspection

SK2102095092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0910 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is unlikely to adopt a resolution calling for North Korea's speedy acceptance of nuclear inspection, a South Korean Government official said Friday.

The IAEA Board of Governors convenes in Vienna Feb. 24-28, but the general consensus is that North Korea should be given more time, the official said.

Members are more likely to insert passages in their speeches urging Pyongyang to quickly ratify the nuclear safeguards accord and open its atomic installations to outside inspection, he said.

North Korea signed the safeguards accord on Jan. 30, but the latest remarks from Pyongyang officials indicate ratification is planned for early April in the third session of the Supreme People's Assembly.

The official, commenting on the results of the just-concluded sixth inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, said lack of progress in nuclear negotiations would have an "indirect influence" on implementing other South-North Korean agreements.

The agreement on reconciliation, nonaggression and exchanges and cooperation, the joint declaration for nuclear-free Korean peninsula, and an accord on formation of three subcommittees took effect Wednesday.

"The agreements are in effect, but their full implementation can be influenced by the progress of nuclear negotiations," the official said, adding that exchange programs, such as hometown visits and reunions of separated families, could still be pursued at a humanitarian level.

Russia To Drop Military Clauses From DPRK Treaty

SK2102030292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—Russia plans to drop military clauses from the 1961 Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance that the Soviet Union signed with North Korea, apparently in an effort to take a balanced approach toward both halves of the Korean peninsula, YONHAP learned Friday.

Russia will start negotiations with North Korea soon to remove military clauses from the 1961 treaty, described as being a military alliance in nature, as agreed in January during a Russian ambassador's visit to Pyongyang, diplomatic sources said.

Russia will also try to do the same for a treaty on basic relations it and South Korea are expected to conclude in the second half of the year, the sources said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry draft of the treaty, which was conveyed to the South Korean Government recently, is devoid of military clauses and stipulates positive support for peaceful reunification of South and North Korea, and a resolution to seek greater economic cooperation with South Korea.

The former Soviet Union and South Korea agreed to conclude a treaty on good neighborly relations and cooperation in April 1991, during a summit between then-Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Korean President No Tae-u.

If the treaty is signed as planned, Russia will become the only powerful country that has a basic relations treaty with both South and North Korea, and this might considerably affect the political situation on and around the Korean peninsula, they said.

They predicted the signing would prompt North Korea to open and hasten the establishment of diplomatic relations between South Korea and China.

Substantial negotiations are expected between South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, in Seoul around March 22.

The treaty is most likely to be officially signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to South Korea expected in mid-September.

According to the Russian draft, Russia will make best efforts for the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas but will not take any action that might aggravate the Korean problem.

The draft calls for South Korea's active participation in the exploitation of natural resources in the Russian Far East and envisages a free economic zone in the area where South and North Korea, China and Japan may carry out economic projects.

It says South Korea and Russia will spare no endeavor to help the 500,000 people of Korean ancestry scattered throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States learn the Korean language and preserve their Korean culture and heritage.

Debate has continued over the content of the treaty ever since it was first proposed by Gorbachev, but it is the first time that Russia, which succeeded the Soviet Union as would-be signatory, produced such a detailed draft as this, observers said.

Yeltsin signed basic relations treaties with Germany, France and Italy during his recent European tour to replace treaties between the Soviet Union and those countries, and their content was almost identical, the observers said.

No Tae-u Directs Implementation of Economic Policy

SK2102081092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0454 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u instructed his economic ministers Thursday to carry out the government's basic economic policy on prices, wages and the international balance of payments effectively in this election year.

No's instruction came after he heard a report from Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu on recent economic trends.

"Although the people agree with the government's basic policy of stable economic growth, each group puts its own selfish interest ahead when it comes to tackling concrete problems such as wage negotiations and loan supplies," No said.

The ministers, therefore, should go out in person to explain and persuade the interest groups to sacrifice a little in order to maintain a stable base for economic growth, the president said.

Choe, who is also head of the Economic Planning Board, earlier told the president that the government had set monetary management within 18.5 percent of the total money supply in order to maintain price stability in March, when the nation is scheduled to hold parliamentary elections.

The government plans to tighten the availability of loans and prevent the abuse of business loans for election campaigns, Choe said.

He said the government would also maintain its restrictions on the construction industry, discourage real estate speculation and stop allowing increases in public utilities fees during the first quarter of this year.

Choe reiterated the government goals to hold overall wage hikes to 5 percent or less for this year.

ROK Establishes Diplomatic Relations With Armenia

SK2102062992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and the former Soviet Republic of Armenia established diplomatic relations on Friday, the Foreign Ministry said.

Yi Won-yong, acting South Korean ambassador to Russia, signed the protocol on diplomatic normalization in Moscow with Armenian First Vice Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosian, the Ministry said. 'Armenia is the 11th member of the Commonwealth of Independent States to form ties with South Korea.

Seoul is expected to establish relations with the remaining republics, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, soon.

South Korea now has full ties with 162 nations.

Energy Cooperation With Russia, Mongolia, Vietnam

SK2102034892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea is beefing up its energy and resources cooperation with Russia, Mongolia and Vietnam, and will soon send survey teams to Mongolia and Vietnam, the Energy and Resources Ministry said Friday.

Energy and Resources Minister Chin Nyom visited Vietnam in January and plans to go to Russia and Mongolia later this year.

Korea assigned a resources official to Moscow at the end of last year in efforts to strengthen cooperation in the natural resources sector, and is seeking to form a bilateral committee co-chaired by the energy and resources ministers of the two countries.

Chin will visit Russia in late April or early May to discuss detailed ways of cooperation with officials there, according to Ministry officials.

He is most likely to visit Mongolia at around the same time. Mongolian Ambassador to Korea Perenleyn Uurjinlhundeb delivered his government's invitation to Chin in January.

The two countries agreed on Korea's dispatch of a resources survey team to Mongolia in January.

To follow up Chin's visit to Vietnam, a group of surveyors will go to the southeast Asian country in mid-March and will seek how to promote trade and joint development of resources and technical cooperation, they said.

While in Vietnam for two weeks, the surveyors will also study the country's natural resources deposits.

Vietnamese Minister of Heavy Industry Tran Lum will begin a one-week visit to Korea late this month to discuss expansion of economic cooperation.

Police Step Up Security for Elections, Ban Rally

SK2102015892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 21 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Police have been placed on alert nationwide in connection with the forthcoming Assembly elections.

The National Police Administration will make a joint effort with the Central Election Management Committee to root out all election-related irregularities and violence.

Police were also ordered to step up security at government buildings, political party offices and foreign diplomatic missions.

Meanwhile, police decided to ban a rally slated for Saturday by a dissident alliance to protest the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

The National Alliance plans to hold the anti-DLP rallies in Seoul and 12 other cities across the country to protest the ruling party.

Citing a judgment of the election management committee that the rally will violate election laws, police told the National Alliance to call off the rally.

The committee ruled that the protest rally, aimed at harming a specific political party, will bring about an unfavorable election outcome for the party's candidates.

Government Sets General Elections for 24 Mar

SK2102080892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0752 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—The government announced Friday that the general elections will be held on March 24 and the official 18-day campaign period will commence March 7.

Election day will be a public holiday.

"The government accepted a suggestion by the ruling Democratic Liberal Party in deciding on the date," a government spokesman said.

PRC's Hainan Island Seeks Resource Development Aid

SK2102015792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 21 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] Hainan Island, China's southernmost province, has requested joint development of natural resources with Korea, a Ministry of Energy and Resources official said yesterday.

The provincial government invited Korea to join in the development of mineral resources like oil and iron ore and invest in other joint projects on the island off the coast of southeast China, when officials at the Seoul Representative Office in Beijing recently visited, according to Cho Ki-pong, chief of the ministry's foreign resources section.

The official said his ministry will review the proposals but have no plan to send a resources survey team there in the near future.

"It is the basic position of our ministry to consult the Chinese central government in the field of resources cooperation," he said.

"Moreover, there are many other areas on mainland China which look more promising," he added.

Oil and natural gas reserves have been found off the northern and southern coasts off the island, about the same size as Taiwan, but the lack of capital has delayed development.

Crude Oil Imports Double in Last Two Years

SK2102033592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korea's crude oil imports have more than doubled in two years and are still rising.

The 42.6 million barrels of oil imported in January were a 39.2-percent increase from 30.6 million barrels in the same month last year and more than double the 20.4 million barrels of January 1990, according to government statistics released Friday.

Korea brought in 399.3 million barrels in 1991, a 29.5 percent increase from the year before.

Oil refineries rushed to purchase oil after the government relaxed import restrictions imposed last year to minimize Korea's trade deficit, analysts say, and imports are likely to increase further as they try to stock up before the government reimposes the restrictions.

More cars and the popularity of high-quality heating oil are pushing up demand, making refineries increase their imports.

The cost of heavier imports has not shown up yet since prices have dropped. Korea spent 844 million U.S. dollars on crude in January, a 7.2-increase from the same month last year despite the 39.2-percent gain in volume.

The government launched Feb. 1 an energy-saving system for public employees. Under the system, they must leave their cars at home one day in every 10.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Indian Navy Chief Meets Military Officials

BK1802055292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0302 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 18 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Chief of Staff of the Indian Navy Admiral L. Ramdas Monday visited the Malaysian Defence Ministry for talks with senior military officials.

A navy spokesman said Admiral Ramdas had discussions with Navy Chief Laksamana Madya [Vice Admiral] Mohamed Shariff Ishak on bilateral matters.

The Indian visitor also called on Defence Minister Najib Razak and Acting Chief of the Armed Forces Gen. Yaacob Mohamed Zain.

Admiral Ramdas, who has been chief of naval staff since November 1990, is here on a week-long visit which includes tours to the Kuantan and Lumut naval bases before he leaves on Feb. 23.

No Request To Return by CPM Leaders

BK1902053292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0347 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 19 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Former leaders of the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) Chin Peng and Abdullah C.D. have yet to apply to return to Malaysia following the party's move to lay down arms in December 1989.

Malaysian Acting Chief of Defence Forces General Mohamed Yaacob Zain said Wednesday, as the period for submitting such applications had expired it was now left to the country's authorities to decide if they could still apply.

Apart from Chin Peng and Abdullah C.D., many other CPM members had also not submitted such applications and were now staying at Damai village, south Thailand, he said after jointly launching an exercise "Air Thamal" with the Commander of the Thai Armed Forces General Suchinda Khraprayun.

The Malaysia-Thailand joint exercise is the 11th since 1982 between the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) and the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF).

Earth Summit Attendance To Be Reconsidered

BK2002094092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0648 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By Ahmad Zukiman Zain]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 20 (BERNAMA)—Primary Industries Minister Dr. Lim Keng Yaik charged Thursday that some developed nations are still linking human rights and environment issues to trade with developing countries.

He said these developed nations were unable to adhere to the standards and rights which they themselves had set and yet they were pressuring the poorer nations to adopt these norms by imposing trade restrictions and barriers.

It was for this reason Malaysia had been fighting all along to liberalise world trade, he told BERNAMA.

"Nowadays, foreign countries, especially from the West, are introducing the so-called non-governmental and non-tariff trade barriers like human rights and environment issues," he said.

Dr. Lim said this was precisely the reason why Malaysia was reluctant to attend the Earth Summit, organized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June.

"If you really want to talk about environment, don't pinpoint Malaysia," he said.

Malaysia might re-consider attending the summit if they had a fair forum where they would just talk about environment and development, he said.

Singapore

President, Deputy Premier Receive PRC Minister

BK2002130392 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Chinese minister for radio, film, and television, Mr. Ai Zhisheng, this afternoon called on President Wee Kim Wee at the Istana [Palace]. Mr. Ai, who is here for a five-day official visit, accompanied by officials from the his ministry and broadcasting corporation.

Earlier, he called on Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ong Teng Cheong at his (?residence). They discussed, among other things, development and issues on broadcasting, and the film industry in Singapore.

Polytechnic Institute Lauds Work Ethic

OW1302125992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Singapore, Feb. 13 KYODO—One of Singapore's leading technological institutes wants its students to emulate the Japanese work ethic by interacting with Japanese students.

"They have good work ethics, such as discipline, respect for their seniors, and loyalty to school and later companies," Khoo Kay Chai, the principal of the post-secondary Singapore Polytechnic, said at a function his school hosted for a group of Japanese students visiting from Ishikawa Prefecture.

Singapore Polytechnic produces more than 4,000 graduates each year, many of whom are recruited by hundreds of Japanese, American, and European manufacturing firms with bases here.

The institute has hosted teachers and students from Ishikawa's Kanazawa Technical College during their yearly visits to Singapore for the past decade.

It has also started sending a few students for short trips to Kanazawa, on the Japan sea coast, in recent years.

"Japanese workers are well known for their work attitude, their discipline, and their productivity," Khoo said in a speech. "This is one area where we can learn from them."

Khoo said the institute will increase its Japanese language classes due to the popularity of the language among its students.

The school started offering three optional three-year foreign language courses—French, Japanese, and German—last July. Of the 500 students taking these courses, some 40 percent are learning Japanese.

Many of them are studying Japanese to improve their chances of working in the many Japanese companies based here, school officials said.

The 138 students from the Japanese college who arrived here Wednesday are visiting Singapore for one week, during which they will stay with local families and visit a shipyard.

Cambodia

Malaysian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets Sihanouk, Gives Money to SNC

BK2102063892 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0402 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 21 Feb (SPK)—During his courtesy call to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), Mr. Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia's minister of foreign affairs who arrived in Phnom Penh on 19 February, handed over 50,000 U.S. dollars given by his government to the SNC Secretariat. The Malaysian foreign minister expressed his government's support for Prince Norodom Sihanouk's role in national reconstruction and reconciliation.

On that occasion, Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his profound gratitude to Malaysia for its precious contribution to the search for a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem.

Meets With Hor Namhong 19 Feb

BK2102072192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], held cordial talks with H.E. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysian foreign minister, at the Foreign Ministry on the afternoon of 19 February. The two sides dedicated their attention to bilateral economic cooperation, especially [words indistinct] Association of Southeast Asian Nations called ASEAN with the aim of promoting economic cooperation in the region for the sake of peace, stability, development, prosperity, and the interests of the people in the entire region.

H.E. Hor Namhong also briefed his guest about the situation of the implementation of the peace accord in Cambodia and raised a number of pressing issues that need to be tackled urgently, specifically the presence of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], troop reduction, and refugee repatriation. He also underlined the Cambodian side's concern over UNTAC and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [words indistinct] which constitute a determining factor for enhancing and bringing the peace accord to its ultimate goal. In his capacity as an SNC member, H.E. Hor Namhong profoundly thanked the Malaysian Government and people for their assistance of $50,000 to the SNC Secretariat, enabling the latter to proceed with its work toward success.

In his reply, H.E. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told H.E. Hor Namhong about his advice to the Malaysian Embassy to closely cooperate with the Foreign Ministry to further expand the relations between the two countries and peoples. He gave his profound thanks for the warm reception granted to him as well as his entourage during his three-day visit to Cambodia.

Says Cambodians Need No Visas

BK2002144392 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Malaysia and Cambodia are drawing up interim arrangements to facilitate freer travel between citizens of both countries. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Cambodians now do not require visa for a two-month visit to Malaysia. They could obtain the document for a two-month stay. The Cambodian authorities are working toward reciprocating this facility for Malaysians. The minister said this to Malaysian journalists accompanying him on a three-day visit to Phnom Penh.

Datuk Abdullah Badawi told his Cambodian counterpart Hor Namhong that Malaysian businessmen need the facility badly for their dealings in Cambodia. The facility would, in fact, be an extension of earlier immigration arrangements between both countries. The Cambodian civil war forced the arrangement to be withdrawn.

Discusses Peace Process, Departs

BK2102103292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0931 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia is glad that peace has finally returned to Cambodia after decades of uncertainty and bloody civil war, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said this was indicated to him by Cambodian political leaders during their meetings with him over the past two days.

"I feel they are very much in control of the situation (in the country) now.

"This is good. Peace has finally come to Cambodia to end the long suffering of its people," he told reporters here at the end of his three-day official visit to Cambodia Friday.

While here Abdullah met Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Supreme National Council (SNC), and leaders of the once-warring factions—Prime Minister Hun Sen of the defunct Vietnamese-installed regime, Prince Norodom Ranariddh who heads the royalists, former Premier Son Sann of the nationalists, and Khieu Samphan of the ruthless Khmer Rouge.

Abdullah said he noted too their enthusiasm to see the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) facilitate the peace process according to the Paris peace treaty.

"They view UNTAC's presence as vital and conducive to national reconciliation," he added.

Under the UNTAC plan, it will have a 15,000-strong force but Sihanouk said Cambodian leaders had unanimously agreed to accept even 5,000 members to get it started, Abdullah said.

He said he had taken note of the urgency of UNTAC's presence and would report to his ASEAN counterparts to find ways for early dispatch of the force.

"As we have agreed to during our meeting in Singapore recently (at the ASEAN summit), we will direct our representatives at the United Nations to present this fact to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali for his immediate attention," he added.

He said Malaysian businessmen accompanying him during the visit also had established contact with the relevant authorities here on possible business opportunities.

"Malaysian businessmen are most welcome to invest in Cambodia," he said, expressing hope that the visit would lead to several joint ventures later.

He said that Hun Sen himself looked forward to having Malaysian businessmen in Cambodia and had repeatedly reminded them to make the most of opportunities made available by Cambodia's reconstruction programmes.

Foreign Officials on Refugee Repatriation Plan

BK2102015592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Feb 92 p A3

[Text] The repatriation of Cambodian displaced persons is scheduled to start in April along Highway No. 5, when its reconstruction is completed by Thai troops, Thai and United Nations officials said yesterday.

"Thai troops will finish the job by the end of March and the refugees can return home in April," said Lt Gen Sanan Kachonklam, chief of the Cambodian Repatriation Coordination Centre, during a briefing for diplomats and journalists yesterday.

Sanan said by that time the refugees should be able to go home safely along a 48-km stretch of the highway. The road is now being reconstructed and its shoulders demined by the 447 Thai soldiers.

Thai troops were deployed there last week as part of the country's effort to facilitate the forthcoming repatriation of Cambodians.

An official of the UN Border Relief Organization said the repatriation will begin on April 1 at the rate of 10,000 persons per week to reception centres in Cambodia.

The five reception centres are being set up by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Sisophon, Battambang, Pursat and Phnom Penh.

The UN official said it will take at least nine months to completely return the estimated 350,000 Cambodian displaced persons stranded in various camps along the Thai-Cambodian border to the reception centres, where they will stay for a week before they are transferred to villages of their choice and origin.

According to a Thai official, half of the 370,000 refugees want to return to Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city.

Both Thai and UN officials expressed concern over the increasing number of Cambodians reaching border camps. A UN official said in January alone there were about 3,500 newcomers and he expected an equivalent number of refugees this month.

The first batch of Thai soldiers, sent on Feb 10 to reconstruct the Poipet-Sisophon section, has completed six kilometres of the road.

"We detonated about 300 mines and booby traps," said Lt Col Wirasak Raksasap, "and there were no casualties among the Thai soldiers."

He said the mine clearing and the road reconstruction had been proceeding according to schedule.

Ataul Karim, the chief of the UN Advanced Mission in Cambodia, said local authorities will be responsible for security during the repatriation in April before the arrival of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

Thai Industrial, Legal Advisers in Phnom Penh

BK2102013992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Feb 92 p B2

[Text] Thai industrial and legal advisers to Phnom Penh have warned Cambodia against repeating the mistakes Thailand made in developing its economy.

The experts, who have been invited by the Phnom Penh government to advise the war-torn country on its economic management, belong to the Board of Investment [BOI], the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand, and Thammasat and Chulalongkon universities. They are discussing the issues at the first seminar on Economic Development for Cambodia, in Phnom Penh.

The two-day seminar, which ends today, is organized by Cambodia's Ministry of Planning, the semi-government Japan Overseas Development Corp, and Chulalongkon University's Law and Development Research Centre.

Sutham Yunaitham, lecturer of law at Chulalongkon University and one of the organizers, said the most prominent mistake Thailand has made and should have avoided is the formulation of conflicting industrial policies by the Ministry of Finance, the Board of Investment, and the Ministry of Industry.

He blamed the absence of a coherent and "truly national" industrial development policy for the overdue protection to some sectors, distorted tax structures, incompetitiveness, industrial infrastructure bottlenecks, and the lack of auxiliary industries.

All these factors make investment in Thailand less attractive, he added, particularly at a time when every country and region around the world are stepping up efforts to attract more capital.

Moreover, the arbitrary government support to particular sectors has also exposed the country's exports to the risk of additional taxes imposed by importing countries to offset the government subsidies, he added.

Sutham cited the BOI as a prime example. Its selective promotional policy and tax exemption have backfired, forcing some export-oriented companies to pay countervailing duty.

The BOI has not matched the Industry Ministry's efforts to generalize its policy and abandon restrictions on new entries, he added.

Frequently, companies receiving the ministry's factory licences do not materialize because the BOI discriminates in granting promotional privileges to some investors, making the investment of others commercially unviable.

Moreover, the BOI's policy on export-oriented industries has encouraged the production of finished products at the expense of intermediate and primary industries, which remain victims of neglect.

The policy might be beneficial in the short run, but it is bad in the long term, Sutham added.

He said the industrial policy was given emphasis because like in other countries opening up, foreign investment will serve as an engine of growth for Cambodia.

Moreover, economic laws that should be established to provide transparency, equality, non-discrimination, equal access and zero barrier to new entry are not in place in Thailand, he said.

Dr Surakiat Sathirathai, director of the research centre, said many laws formulated during the period when Thailand adopted its import-substitution policy—stipulating high tariffs, restrictions on foreign participation in domestic investment and controls on imports and exports—are still intact.

Although the present national development plan attempts to address these legal obstacles, the action has been taken only slowly or on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, he said, there is a high degree of uncertainty surrounding legal implications because of the wide discretionary powers given to bureaucrats who tend to overturn decisions and bend policies at will.

The Thai law, he said, makes no clear distinction among basic functions of control, supervision and facilitation of authorities' activities, thus hampering the Anan government's initiative to transform the public machinery from a regulator to a facilitator.

Also, the Thai law lacks automatic applicability and transparency, as reflected in the fact that the acts of parliament are usually short, leaving other issues—both principles and details—to be subordinate to legislation issued by ministries and related administrative bodies, Surakiat said.

"As a result, not everyone knows what their view on a certain matter would be. There is no transparency. Not everyone knows when and which principle will be applied and in which cases. There is no automaticity," the legal expert said.

Sihanouk Meets French Democratic Foundation

BK2102040892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, granted an audience to a delegation of the French Democratic Foundation led by Mr. (Jean Duc Maure), a professor at Sorbonne University, at Khemarin Palace on the night of 17 February.

On that occasion, H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk warmly welcomed the delegation's visit to Cambodia at a time when the implementation of the Paris accord on Cambodia is making significant headway. He added that Cambodia is adopting a democratic regime with a view to achieving great national union to promote national construction and development toward prosperity.

Professor (Jean Duc Maure) expressed optimism that Cambodia, under H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk's leadership, would recover genuine peace and that the Cambodian people would continue in safety and progress.

Sihanouk Fetes CPP, SOC 'Top Officials'

BK2102071592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] At 1130 on 20 February at Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia, and his consort hosted a banquet in honor of top officials of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, including Their Excellencies Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, and his wife; Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee, National Assembly, and National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; and Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his wife. Also attending the reception were members of the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee, including Their Excellencies Chea Soth and his wife; Sar Kheng, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister; Say Chhum, standing vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mat Ly, vice chairman of both the National Assembly and the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; and Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and defense minister. Also in attendendance were Mrs. Men Sam-an, chairwoman of the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; Their Excellencies Nguon Nhel, agriculture minister; General Sin Song, national security minister; Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh city party committee and people's committee; Senior Lieutenant General Pol Saroeun, deputy defense minister and chief of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] General Staff; Senior Lieutenant General Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister and chief of the CPAF General Political Department; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his wife; Their Excellencies Hor Namhong, foreign minister, and his wife; Dit Munti, chairman of the CPP Central Committee Propaganda and Education Commission; Lieutenant General Sin Sen, deputy interior minister; and Im Chhunlim; director general of the Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk was extremely pleased to have hosted the reception for the top officials of the CPP and the SOC Government within the great Cambodian family under the shade of Buddhism. He added that he was very happy to have returned to the motherland and lived with the people who respect, idolize, and believe in him, making our joint tasks a success for the sake of the people's supreme interests, promoting the multifarious development of the country, and elevating our Cambodia's image in the international arena. The prince further said that from now on he would stay with the people in Cambodia forever.

In his reply, His Excellency Chea Sim underlined that he would, on behalf of the CPP, government, and people of the SOC, do whatever he could to follow the prince on his supreme mission to achieve national reunification and lead Cambodia toward peace and prosperity as it was in the Sangkum Reas Niyum era. He wished His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk and his wife the best of health and longevity so they can further remain as the harmonious shade for the people.

Sihanouk Discusses Unity Among Buddhist Clergy

BK2002113192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk at Maghapuja Buddhist ceremony at the Vihear Suor Castle in the Royal Palace on 18 February—recorded]

[Text] The presence at this ceremony of Their Highnesses the two most venerated and worshipped supreme patriarchs, together with other members of the Buddhist clergy—the eminent representatives of Buddhism, which is the cool shade of the people and the religion of the Cambodian nation—constitutes a very momentous event of historic proportions. I would like to express humble thanks to Their Highnesses the two most venerated, worshipped, and beloved supreme patriarchs and all Buddhist monks for blessing and bestowing happiness upon Cambodia, our Cambodian people, and especially His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Heng Samrin and Madame, H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and Madame, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and Madame, and other excellencies, madames, ladies, and gentlemen in the State of Cambodia [SOC], in the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], and in Cambodia as a whole. All Buddhist followers, the faithful, and supporters, and especially all the people who are present here to pay their homage to the clergy are very pleased, delighted, and moved to have heard the prayers and blessings chanted by Their Highnesses the two supreme patriarchs and other members of the Buddhist clergy and to have savored the preaching made by His Highness the supreme patriarch of the Thammayut Buddhist sect on behalf of the two supreme patriarchs and other members of the Buddhist clergy.

This preaching has shown us the right path, the good path and has reminded us of the noble meaning of Maghapuja. This teaching is of great use. It can be applied to state affairs, national government, national construction, and national defense. It is the light that shows the correct path, the good path. If we follow this path we will surely achieve excellent and maximum results for our nation and motherland, which always enjoy prosperity, glory, peace, and happiness whenever we strictly adhere to the triple jewels—namely, Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, which are the shade, the beacon for us. At times when someone suppressed or ignored Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, our motherland experienced danger, suffering, and misery beyond description.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to once again express admiration at the CPP and SOC with H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin, H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, and H.E. Chairman Chea Sim as the enlightened leaders imbued with a pure sense of patriotism and love for Buddhism. I would like to express my warm admiration of them and thank the CPP, the SOC Government, and the three excellencies as well as their wives for enabling all of us, including myself and my wife, to fulfill our wishes. It was like a dream came true when, returning to the motherland, I saw all the good traditions of our country revived and Buddhism thriving. Thus, all the excellent conditions have been created for our religion, our nation, our motherland, and our people to once again savor peace and happiness within national unity and solidarity and for all of us to advance hand-in-hand united as a single body within the same great family on the good road of national reconstruction and comprehensive development, and with independence and territorial integrity—the same kind we experienced in the past, in the time of Angkor and in the time of Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's pre-1970 Popular Socialist Party] and as we are now experiencing in the time of the CPP and SOC. This is because we succeeded in achieving unity and reconciliation by following the teaching of the monks in the sacred names of Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, because we respected Buddhism as our national religion, and because we have good discipline and follow the right path.

As for the remark made just now by His Highness the supreme patriarch of the Thammayut Buddhist sect concerning his monastery, I am sure that H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen would agree with H.E. Chea Sim, who has had frequent contacts with me concerning the need to further foster Buddhism in all fields and forms. And His Highness the most venerated, worshipped, and beloved supreme patriarch of the Mohanikay Buddhist sect is also magnanimous in voicing full support for His Highness the supreme patriarch of the Thammayut Buddhist sect, whom he regards as his younger brother. Therefore, I would like to inform His Highness the supreme patriarch that the SOC Government and CPP have already taken necessary measures under the supervision of H.E. Vice Premier Kong Sam-ol. Efforts are being made by experts, artisans, and workers day and night to complete the construction of a temple for His Highness the supreme patriarch of the Thammayut Buddhist sect so that he can perform his functions in the abode according to the time-honored Buddhist traditions. His Highness the supreme patriarch is assured that he will be able to reside in that temple in the not too distant future to become the shade protecting the Buddhist faithful.

The fact that the most worshipped and venerated Mohanikay and Thammayut Buddhist sects can unite with one another as a single body is a very good thing. In his preaching just now, His Highness the supreme patriarch enlightened all of us about the supreme benefit of unity, mutual understanding, and solidarity. I regret that certain politicians have tried to pit monks against one another and cause disunity within the Buddhist clergy. In the past, we never had any splits. I still remember well that Their Highnesses the supreme patriarchs of the two sects were very friendly to each other. They supported each other like brothers. The Mohanikay and Thammayut sects were very closely united in major ceremonies, especially during homage paid to the Holy Ashes of Lord Buddha at the stupa in front of Phnom Penh's Railway Station, and particularly on Maghapuja and Vishakhapuja. At that time, as head of state of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I also attended such ceremonies.

Their Highnesses the supreme patriarchs and some elderly venerable monks would have known very well that in those days we were very united, just as we are now thanks to the enlightened policy of Their Excellencies the three chairmen of the SOC and CPP. Then Buddhist monks would chant their prayers together in the styles of both the Mohanikay and Thammayut Sects, without any discrimination, without any problems. That constitutes the main character, the main foundation for peace, prosperity, and continual development of our nation in all fields.

Whenever we ignore unity, we lose all our national honor, independence, and territorial integrity and we experience catastrophe, suffering, and misery. Therefore, politics should be carried out with the sole objective of building and defending the nation and protecting freedom according to liberal democracy. That is a good practice. However, if one plays politics with the sense of anger, greed, and ignorance that His Highness the venerated supreme patriarch in his preaching has just urged us to avoid at all costs, and when we let ignorance, greed, and anger guide us, it can only be concluded that we have taken the wrong path. In order to achieve happiness and harmony, we must always remain united. Mohanikay is a major sect representing the majority of the people, whereas the Thammayut Sect, although precious like its elder brother sect, is smaller in size, having fewer Buddhist followers than the Mohanikay Sect. Therefore, unity is the force of our nation. As in the world of laymen, of lay followers, if there is disunity, antagonism, violence, or the practice of anger, ignorance, and greed between the sects, our nation will never have peace and always retrogress while other countries progress.

Take for example the bitter period. We do not have to be reminded as we will always know and always remember the bitter period that has just ended. We cannot forget this bitter period. Therefore, we must avoid disunity. Moreover, the discipline of Buddhism, the discipline that rules the Buddhist clergy, is the best in the world. According to discipline, we must be united, understand and help each other, and have esteem for one another. This is the prerequisite for Buddhism to prosper, shine, and grow, not only on the national stage but also in the international arena. In the past when our country was fully independent and Buddhism prospered, wherever our Buddhist monks went—to India or Sri Lanka, say—they received much praise and respect. Now that the Buddhist clergy is united under the auspices of Their Highnesses the two supreme patriarchs, Buddhism will surely prosper, shine, and resound both in the country and the world.

I am very satisfied with the excellent situation resulting from the correct choice made by the CPP and SOC Government with H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Heng Samrin, and H.E. Hun Sen as the precious, eminent, noble, shrewd, and very enlightened leaders. I am thus very glad. It is true when I said that our gathering here in the Royal Palace at this moment is an event of historic proportions. It is the first time that we have performed this Maghapuja ceremony together. It is like when H.E. Heng Samrin, H.E. Hun Sen, and H.E. Chea Sim invited me to preside over the Royal Regatta, which was massively attended by millions of my children from all provinces. It is also like the Full Moon Festival, which Their Highnesses the two supreme patriarchs also attended. I still remember that you and a few other Buddhist monks also came to the Moon Festival. Yes, all that is an excellent thing and the road we have chosen is the best. One thing that we should avoid is disunity. Maybe certain politicians made a mistake in judgment. I do not charge that they had some speculation for their own benefit or that of their parties. I say maybe they made a mistake in judgment when they charged that the arrival of His Highness Supreme Patriarch (Vuo Kri) has spawned weakness within the clergy as it has led to disunity and divided the clergy into two sects.

As you already know, even before the arrival of His Highness Supreme Patriarch (Vuo Kri), Buddhist monks of both the Mohanikay and Thammayut sects had already been closely united, coexisting most peacefully with each other. In truth, there have never been any problems. I have not heard of any problems before. It is not the CPP but the politicians who have claimed that there are problems about unity. I was surprised to learn about it. I do not know it myself. I was told there were problems. In reality, I am sure and am well informed now that there have never been any problems. Last week I asked H.E. Chairman Chea Sim point blank: Mr. Chairman, is it true that there are problems? No, he replied. I then asked H.E. Prime Minister Hun Sen: Do you know of any problems? No, he said. No problems. The Samdech Euv [Prince Father; refers to Sihanouk] should not worry. There are no problems. Our unity is in excellent shape.

I am thus very happy. I am full of delight. But I have to confess that for a fleeting moment I was very worried.

But I am no longer worried after learning that the truth is different from what certain politicians had claimed it to be. Let us not forget that we are now preparing for the elections. Therefore, in order to win the politicians are resorting to different means. These different means are not 100 percent clean. [laughter] In our people's language, we call this dirty tricks [laughter]. Some tricks are not easy to swallow. [laughter] For this reason I have warned them not to play such morbid tricks. [laughter] To get votes from the people, we must not lie to them, incite them, or agitate them. The people have a good sense of judgment. They know right from wrong.

In my case, for example, I worked so hard to build and defend the nation, to bring happiness to the motherland—at that time our Cambodia was known as the oasis of peace—but a certain regime used all available means to vilify me through the press, radio and television, and by word of mouth all over the world. However, our people are the best, venerable Monks. They know right from wrong. Not only the old but even the young ones have good judgment because they are well-bred by their parents. And they have rendered me justice. For instance, not only have they agreed to let Prince Sihanouk return home, but they have also very earnestly been begging Samdech Euv not to go away, but to stay with them forever. Not only have they agreed to let this old prince return, but they have also insisted that he come and stay. See those children down there? They have shouted: Father, do not run away from us. I told them I am not running away; I am going to stay with them.

All this shows that they know how to render justice, how to differentiate right from wrong. No one can fool our people because they have good judgment. Therefore, if we play politics let us do it for good reasons. Do not use divisive, insinuating, problem-creating tricks to push our country backward again. Our people, our monks will not consent to that. We must advance on the path of civilization, progress, and prosperity just as the CPP has said in its slogan: We are the nation of Angkor; we must be civilized. In the time of Angkor, if a party had kept causing splits and divisions, if we had not had unity, how could we have built the Angkor temples? We must have been very powerful to have built such temples. If we were only moderately powerful, moderately united, we could never have built them.

As for His Highness Supreme Patriarch (Vuo Kri), His Highness the most worshipped and venarated supreme patriarch of the Mohanikay sect, he lived a great distance from us for a long, long time. Like myself, he was separated from the motherland not intentionally, not because he wanted to be, but because of Mr. Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge, the war, and the call from abroad for him to help spread Buddhism. Lord Buddha's is a religion of peace. Therefore, peace, non-violence has to be preached. When Samdech (Vuo Kri) lived abroad, he was very active in fostering Buddhism and he saw to it that our numerous overseas Cambodian citizens would never forget their religion—Buddhism—and their good traditions. For these reasons, I decided to bestow upon him the title of Samdech.

When he returned to Cambodia along with me, H.E. Chea Sim personally took upon himself the duty of arranging some decisions in the names of the CPP and SOC. One day he requested an audience with me. He said: We are the children of Samdech Euv. We would like to inform you that whatever good you do, whatever good Sangkum Reas Niyum did, we of the CPP and SOC Government will support it. We will support any decision that we take together after discussion.

And among the good decisions, venerable Monks, was the revival of the Mohanikay and Thammayut sects, which existed and fraternally coexisted in the past. We did that by following our good traditions and considering it a good deed for the nation and in the interests of the Buddhist faithful in general. May I be exonerated for that matter. Thus, H.E. Chea Sim made the proposal and upon my return on 15 November I and H.E. Chea Sim decided that the Supreme Partriarchate should be restored. Consequently, a decree was proclaimed appointing Your Highness supreme patriarch of the Mohanikay sect from the day I returned to the country, that is, on 15 November 1991. And later on, Your Highness, who is the younger brother of His Highness Samdech (Vuo Kri), became supreme patriarch of the Thammayut sect. Your Highness was very much satisfied because you adhere to pure Buddhism which teaches unity and love and forbids envy.

As taught in the preaching just now, there should be no envy, no jealousy in Buddhism. There should be only love, mutual help. For example, Lord Buddha taught that the rich should help the poor and the healthy should help the sick. When I visited the hospitals I praised the doctors and nurses for strictly following Lord Buddha's teaching. I am not trying to compete with Your Highness in preaching [laughter]. I only want to make a short explanation. Maybe I have taken a little too much of your time. His Highness the supreme patriarch of the Mohanikay sect is going to give another sermon for his numerous faithful at Onnalaom Monastery tonight and H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen have many state affairs to look after. I would therefore like to humbly beg your pardon for making this speech and explanation, which should end here. Thank you very much. Long live Buddhism in Cambodia.

Military Police Fight 'Squatters' Near Capital

BK2102055192 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 21 (AFP)—Military police fought with squatters refusing to leave government land on the outskirts of the Cambodian capital Friday, killing one woman and injuring five people, witnesses said. The woman, a 55-year-old street vendor, was hit in the eye by a stray bullet fired by police in the scuffle, her family members told AFP.

The squatters, armed with knifes and throwing eggs, were attacking the military police who tried to dismantle their houses, the witnesses said. Police on the scene said two people were arrested.

Police were keeping people away from the field on the road to Pochentong Airport, where 360 families claimed plots and built houses on what military police say is land belonging to Phnom Penh University.

Several such squabbles have broken out in Phnom Penh's open spaces as people come into the city looking for places to live and soldiers fearing demobilization take over land for housing. But Friday's violence was the worst reported so far.

Near the area on Thursday, municipal police officers who had also claimed pieces of the field said military police were sent in to dismantle their squatter houses, and they vowed to fight. Truckloads of military police were seen heading into the field, and an armored personnel carrier was parked nearby.

One angry man said he had lived on the site since 1979 and went off to get his friends to help him defend his house. The situation escalated Friday morning, when the scuffle broke out.

SRV Troops Said To Attack Battambang Commune

BK2102021292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] It is reported that some 300 Vietnamese aggressor elements mounted an offensive against the liberated Sre Chiphu commune in Ratanamondol District of Battambang Province last week. In the onslaught, the Vietnamese aggressor forces shelled villages in the commune, killing five people—including three children—and wounding many others and destroying a great deal of property.

The Vietnamese aggressors' offensive against the resistance-liberated commune and killing of the villagers are a gross violation of the cease-fire agreement and Paris 23

October 1991 accord. The inhabitants in Sre Chiphu commune categorically oppose the crimes committed by the Vietnamese invaders and hold that they, as victims of the Vietnamese aggression, have the exclusive right to join hands to battle the Vietnamese invaders until they are forced to respect and abide by the Paris accord by withdrawing all their aggressor forces from Cambodia.

SRV Elements Reportedly Disguised as Civilians

BK2102020892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] According to a report from Phnom Penh, the Vietnamese aggressors are currently organizing their armed elements in the city as civilians. Along with this, the Vietnamese aggressors have also sent thousands of Vietnamese women disguised as prostitutes to Cambodia.

The report adds that the Vietnamese aggressors have also assigned their elements who just returned from receiving training in Vietnam to carrying out intelligence missions, murdering people, and shooting to death the national resistance forces everywhere. Those Vietnamese forces known as E-40 are secretly stationed at Chup rubber plantation, east of the Mekong River in Kompong Cham Province.

It is also reported that the Vietnamese aggressors have ordered their elements implanted in Phnom Penh to foment chaos and create insecurity with the intent of preventing the implementation of the Paris accord for ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia.

As for the Vietnamese prostitutes, they are Vietnamese aggressor agents entrusted with the mission of seducing the people, gathering information, and carrying out all kinds of activities to serve their war of invasion. The report confirms the Vietnamese aggressors' collusion with an allied group to carry out all kinds of activities to insolently ruin or violate the peace accord for ending the Vietnamese war of aggression against Cambodia unchecked.

The Cambodian people, who unambiguously know the Vietnamese aggressors' poisonous maneuvers, wish to clearly declare that they—as a victim—have the absolute right to join forces to fight and definitely defeat the Vietnamese aggressors with the aim of forcing them to implement the accord and motivating the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to come to verify the complete withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces from the country.

Indonesia

General Rejects Use of Nuclear Arms

BK2002152492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1327 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 20 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the Social and Political Affairs of the the Armed Forces (ABRI) Lt. Gen. [Lieutenant General] Harsudiono Hartas said here on Thursday that Indonesia refused any use of nuclear weapons to press other countries in order to achieve political, economic, social, cultural, defense and security goals.

Hartas who spoke at a meeting on non-proliferation of mass destructive weapons, said that Indonesia which co-signed the 1968 non-proliferation pact and disarmament conference in Geneva in 1979, is bound not to use, produce and develop mass destructive weapons.

At a seminar organized by the Indonesian International Forum (IFI), the general said that Indonesia also has the obligation to contribute its share to the formation of an international body which would handle the banning of chemical and mass destructive weapons.

He said that the funds which were used to produce and proliferate nuclear, biological and chemical weapons should be used for improving the welfare of the people.

The problems of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons are international problems which need integral solution, Hartas told the meeting which was attended by legislators, diplomats, political observers and senior media editors.

In the meantime, Agus Sudono of the IFI said that the Indonesian diplomats could use many international forums to express their opposition to mass destructive weapons.

He mentioned among others the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Conference, ASEAN, the United Nations General Assembly and other regional cooperation forums.

IFI Chairman M. Jusuf Ronodipuro who held the meeting pointed out an estimate that there were about 52,000 nuclear warheads in the world, about 97 per cent of which were found in the United States, former Soviet republics such as Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Memo Signed on Military Cooperation With Malaysia

BK1702111492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1023 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 17 (OANA-ANTARA)—Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) General Try Sutrisno and Malaysian Armed Forces Commander General Tan Sri Hashim Mohamedd Ali signed on Monday a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the expansion of cooperation which has been achieved by the General Border Commission (GBC) of both countries in the field of exercises, exchange of personnel and logistics, the armed forces spokesman said here on Monday.

Before the signing of the MOU which was held at ABRI's headquarters in Cilangkap, Try Sutrisno awarded Tan Sri Hashim with a "Yudha Dharma Utama" Star in honour of his meritorious service in increasing cooperation between both sides, particulalry between the armed forces of the two countries.

Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali is on a visit in Indonesia to bid farewell in connection with his retirement in the future.

Trade Group, Algeria Seek Enhanced Cooperation

BK1902102292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0841 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 19 (OANA-ANTARA)—The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Middle East Committee (Kadin) and its Algerian counterpart agreed to strengthen the existing trade relations through the establishment of documentary instruments to protect the relations.

Algeria needs to step up a trade cooperation with Indonesia, Algerian Ambassador Abdelhak Bererhi said after a discussion about general cooperation agreement with the Kadin chairman, H. Edi Kowara, here Tuesday.

The cooperation agreement scheduled to be signed on February 20 in Jakarta consisted of trade regulation of several export commodities as well as businessmen and information exchange programs, he said.

According to Bererhi, such an accord would be [words indistinct].

In 1988, Indonesia recorded a trade surplus of 136 billion rupiahs. Indonesia's export value was recorded at 140 billion rupiahs, while the import value from the Algeria was only recorded at four billion rupiahs.

The main Indonesian export commodity to Algeria included coffee, textile, tobacco, and spices.

G-77 Meeting Endorses Business Data Network

BK2002142692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1334 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 20 (OANA/ANTARA)—The fifth meeting of Chambers of Commerce and Industries (KADINs) of the G-77 nations ended here Thursday with an agreement to establish a South-South business information network system.

Delegates also reached a consensus to enhance an overall co-operation especially in the economic field to resist the establishment of the various trade blocs and mounting protectionism by the industrialized nations.

Another decision made during the conference which was attended by representatives from 39 Afro-Asian and Latin American countries and the United Nations is to call on the G-77 governments to take a more active part in promoting cooperation among the private sectors.

The conference furthermore has called for a stepped up cooperation in technical and managerial training, research work and technological development between the G-77 countries. In this context, a conference delegate has proposed for the setting up of a bank under the G-77's umbrella to smoothen the payment system in the South-South trade relations which thus far was considered as a constraint to an enhanced economic cooperation between the developing nations.

The conference which was opened by President Suharto on February 16 also heard speeches by Industry Minister Hartarto, State Minister for Population and Environment and Junior Minister of Trade Sudrajat Jiwandono.

G-77 KADINs Conference Chairman Iman Taufik told ANTARA after the closing ceremony that the main obstacle in the establishment of the common business information system is how to collect funds required, amounting to about 5.0 million U.S. dollars. Efforts will be made to obtain the costs from a UN body like UNDP [United Nations Development Program], he said.

Other bodies like the European Economic Community which draws advantage from the common business system's data may also be helpful, he said adding that one more handicap is that not all South-South countries have a base for business information. There will be no problem for the ASEAN countries, and about 50 per cent of the 117-member G-77 nations have such a business information system, Taufik said.

Indonesia's KADIN Chairman Sotion Arjanggi said the trade value of the developing nations has come to about 15 per cent only of the world trade, this against the fact that two thirds of the world' population inhabit the developing countries.

The conference which was also attended by a representative of China as observer has decided to appoint Cameroon as host for the sixth similar meeting in 1994.

Calm Response Urged to Portuguese Ferry Visit

BK2002101392 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0643 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 20 (OANA-ANTARA)—Coordinating Minister for Political and Security Affairs Sudomo urged the people here on Wednesday not to dramatize a planned visit to East Timor by a Portuguese ferry "Lussitene Expresso" because it would only benefit the Portuguese side.

Indonesia had said that any party intending to enter its territories should abide by its law as well as the international law, the minister told officials attending a coordination meeting on the political and security fields.

He said that Indonesia holds the law to its high esteem so that those who enter its territories without heeding the existing regulations, moreover if obviously violating the law, will be given sanctions.

Commenting on a suggestion by the armed forces faction of the House of Representatives that the ship be held if it trespasses the Indonesian waters, the minister said that a legislator has the right to put forward a proposal.

"But what is important is that the matter should not be dramatized because it would only please the Portuguese side," Sudomo said adding that to the best of his knowlege, the Portuguese ship—reportedly to bring 100 students and newsmen aboard—has not yet obtained a license to visit East Timor.

On the occasion, the minister also explained to reporters issues on national consensus, clarifications on the Dili incident given to U.N. secretary general's personal envoy Amos Wako, supervision on foreign journalists entering East Timor as a tourist, poverty and non-governmental organizations.

The head of state has given a clear criterion on the national consensus so that any one wishing to formulate another meaning would only waste his energy, Sudomo said.

Should it need a change in the future, it should first be deliberated in the political infra-sturucture before being brought to the political supra-structure talks, and this means that a change in national consensus in the future should be discussed all together as it involves the law as well, the minister explained.

There should be an agreement among the socio-political parties, Golkar [Functional Group], the armed forces and the government with regard to this, Sudomo stressed.

Referring to the foreign tourists carrying out journalistic activities in Indonesia, the minister said that the relevant agencies have taken a coordination step to monitor them.

Laos

Reportage on Agreements Signed With Thailand

Amity and Cooperation Treaty Signed

BK2002112992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Treaty of A~~mity and C~~ooperation Between the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Thailand—read by announcer]

[Text] The parties to the treaty—taking into account the historical, geographical, and cultural relations and similarities that have bound the peoples of the two countries together; having the desire to further promote and strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation, in line with the brotherly and good-neighborly ties between the peoples of the two nations; based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence stipulated in the Lao-Thai Joint Communique dated 4 April 1979; and in order to promote peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world—have agreed to the following:

1. This treaty is aimed at promoting long-lasting peace, friendship, and cooperation between the fraternal Lao and Thai peoples for the benefit of their mutual interests.

2. In maintaining bilateral relations, the parties must firmly adhere to and comply with the following basic principles:

A. Respect each other's national independence, sovereignty, equality, and territorial integrity.

B. Refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs and honor each country's right to choose its own political and social systems without external interference, subversion, and coercion.

C. Settle bilateral conflicts or disputes through peaceful means on the basis of equality, correctness, and justice in line with the UN Charter.

3. The parties must actively promote and strengthen friendly, brotherly, and good-neighborly relations between the Lao and Thai peoples and, simultaneously, promote and facilitate mutual contacts and cooperation in various fields so as to increase mutual understanding, unity, assistance, and trust between the peoples of the two countries.

4. The parties must actively turn the common border of the two countries into a border of genuine long-lasting peace, friendship, and cooperation.

5. The parties shall firmly adhere to the interests of peace and security of the two countries and other countries in the region, support and promote the expansion of international relations, regardless of political and social differences, in order to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of genuine peace, freedom, and neutrality.

6. The parties shall promote and expand cooperation in economic, trade, investment, cultural, scientific, technological, and other fields and mutual assistance to expedite the development and promotion of the well-being of the peoples of the two countries.

7. The parties shall exchange views and hold consultations, in both times of normalcy and necessity, on political issues related to the interests of the two countries and regional and international problems of common interest so as to defend and safeguard peace, security, and good cooperation among countries in the world.

8. This treaty is subject to ratification and becomes valid on the date of the exchange of ratification instruments to take place in Vientiane.

9. This treaty is permanently valid unless one of the parties to the treaty gives written notification 12 months in advance to the other of its intention to terminate it. This treaty is terminated within 12 months after the notice of termination from either party is received.

10. This treaty is drawn up in both the Lao and Thai languages. The two versions can be used as evidence and are equally valid. In case of differing interpretation of any provision of the Treaty, the parties shall settle their differences through negotiations.

In witness whereof the respective plenipoteniaries of the parties have affixed their names and seals.

Signed in Bangkok on 19 February 1992.

[Signed] His Excellency Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, on behalf of the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic,

His Excellency Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Chambers of Commerce Sign Agreement

BK2102104892 Vientiane KPL in English 0936 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 21 (KPL)—A cooperation agreement between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic] and the Chamber of Commerce of the Kingdom of Thailand was signed here on Feb. 19.

The signatories to the agreement were on the Lao side Mr. Khamma Phomkong, president of the Lao Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and on the Thai side Mr. Youk na Thalang, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Thailand.

According to this agreement, the two sides will cooperate in the promotion of the investment in trade and tourism, exchange of economic and financial information, facilitate the functioning of businessmen of the two countries. The sides also agreed to organize the trade exhibitions with the aim to mutually exchange experiences and help in business field.

The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister for foreign affairs of the Lao PDR, Mr. Phongsak Ditsayatan, charge d'affaires a.i. of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Lao PDR, and other representatives of the Lao and Thai chambers of commerce and businessesmen of the two countries.

Kaysone Phomvihan Addresses Villagers

BK1602090092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] On 8 February, President Kaysone Phomvihan visited and chatted with more than 200 people from 11 villages in Ban Sok canton, Khanthabouli District, Savannakhet Province. Accompanying the president were Boun-gnang Volachit, governor of Savannakhet Province, and members of the Savannakhet provincial and Khanthabouli district party and administrative committees.

After hearing a report presented by the administration head of Khanthabouli District on activities of the local youth and women's unions, on agricultural production, and the work of other services in the district, President Kaysone Phomvihan addressed the gathering. He hailed the achievements accomplished by local residents of Ban Sok canton in the various fields and discussed the current internal and international situation. He called on the people of all strata to unite around the party and state and to concentrate all efforts on building a prosperous country and on producing more goods for sale.

Phoun Sipaseut Attends Reception at DPRK Embassy

BK1702062892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] On the evening of 14 February, Chang Yong-chun, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos, held a reception at the Mekong Restaurant to commemorate the 50th birthday anniversary of Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau and general secretary of the Korean Workers Party, supreme commander of the Korean People's Armed Forces, and beloved leader of the Korean people.

Attending the reception as guests of honor were Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and a number of ministers, deputy ministers, members of the Supreme Peoples Assembly, and high-level cadres from various ministries.

Earlier on the morning of the same day, a news conference was held at the DPRK Embassy on Kim Chong-il's birthday.

Sisavat Keobounphan Attends Farm Show in Province

BK2002012092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Savannakhet Province regards 13 February as its provincial agriculture day and it organized the first agricultural festival on that day this year. Attending the festival were Boun-gnang Volachit, governor of Savannakhet Province; Sisavat Keobounphan, minister of agriculture and forestry; Phou Latsaphon, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly; and (Mutapha), representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Laos.

According to an agricultural cadre of the province, 20 years ago 72 percent of the entire province was covered with tropical rain and integrated forests. However, the acreage of the wooded areas in the province has so far decreased to only 48 percent of the total territory, thus causing negative and adverse effects on agricultural production in the province, such as floods and drought. He said the festival was partly aimed at alleviating and gradually halting the problem of forest destruction and timber poaching and at encouraging farmers in the province to turn out more and more agricultural products as commercial goods. At the festival, various kinds of agricultural display have also been held. The theme of the festival is: nature and production.

Discusses Agricultural Work

BK2102021892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] While attending the agriculture day festival in Savannakhet Province held on 13 and 14 February, Sisavat Keobounphan, minister of agriculture and forestry, met and talked with a number of cadres and experts in charge of agricultural work in the province. The minister hailed achievements accomplished in the agricultural field in the province and reviewed the party's and state's direction of agricultural development programs from now to the year 2000, which are basically aimed at producing surplus food supply for consumption and future keeping, halting wanton forest destruction, encouraging production of agricultural products into commercial goods, building irrigation facilities, and training agricultural cadres. Sisasvat Keobounphan also discussed rationale and needs to develop agricultural work in our country.

Conference on Security Activities Ends

BK1702094292 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Vientiane, February 17 (KPL)—A 10-day conference to review activities on security last year and to plan the activities for 1992 has ended.

Chaired by Interior Minister A-sang Laoli, the conference, reviewing the activities on security matter last year and planning the activities for 1992, focused on discussions of the international and regional situation which relates to the protection of political security and social order in the country.

The conference passed the 1992 plan of action for the security work, designed to safeguard the party-state leading organs and the revolutionary gains.

The interior minister in his closing speech suggested that all the participating security officers publicize the outcome of the conference and effectively realise it so as to achieve the party-state political task.

Philippines

NPA Clarifies Ransom Demand for Barnes

HK2102055492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] The abductors of American executive Michael Barnes are demanding a ransom of $20 million. A group of Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [NPA] rebels is suspected of kidnapping Barnes. Earlier, the Philippine National Police [PNP] thought that the NPA was only asking for 20 million Philippine pesos. However, the rebels have clarified that they are demanding a $20 million ransom. The PNP said they will be able to rescue Barnes and present him to the public in two weeks time.

Abadia Vows To Fight if Spratly Troops Attacked

HK2102020692 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 21 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] The country will fight if rival nations attack the territories which the Philippines claims in the Spratly Islands, the Armed Forces chief of staff said yesterday.

Gen. Lisandro Abadia told reporters the Philippines would strengthen its military units on eight islands in the Spratlys, a group of isolated reefs and atolls in the South China Sea also claimed by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

"It's part of our territory. That's why we have troops there. No matter what, we will fight," Abadia said. "If the troops are fired on, we will fire back."

But Abadia said the government favored negotiations on the potentially oil-rich island chain and conceded the Philippines might not win a clash against China or Vietnam. "Whether we will win, that's another story," he said.

"Diplomatic officials of these countries have met and agreed to map out agreements and settle differences (on) the diplomatic table," he added.

Nations claiming the sparsely populated islands could set up a corporation to jointly develop oil or gas fields in the area as part of a negotiated solution, Abadia suggested.

Chinese and Vietnamese forces clashed in the Spratlys in 1988.

The government will discuss the territorial dispute over the Spratlys with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet when he visits Manila next week, the foreign office said yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Wednesday that the dispute over the Spratlys "is not in the agenda but could be brought up during the discussions."

"The earlier we address this question, the better," Foreign Undersecretary Pablo Suarez told reporters.

The Philippines claim on the Kalayaan Island group was made in June 1978 under a decree issued President Ferdinand Marcos. Under PD [Presidential Decree] 1596, the government made the island group a part of the country.

Poll Official Says Rebels Still Security Threat

HK2002014392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The communist rebels remain a threat to the country's security despite President Aquino's statement that the leftist movement is slowly being defeated. According to the Commission on Elections Chairman Christian Monsod, the recent ambush of soldiers is a negative sign, because ordinary military men are on the offensive in the anti-insurgency campaign. It is suspected that the massacre is to display the rebels strength and to disprove the government's claim of victory. The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army wants to draw attention to the fact that it is still among the aspects requiring attention in relation to the May elections.

Police Fire on Pro-NPA Marchers Near Palace

HK2102034792 Hong Kong AFP in English 0322 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Manila, Feb 21 (AFP)—Police fired automatic weapons Friday to fend off a bomb attack by about 150 men holding a pro-communist rally near the presidential palace, witnesses said.

The brief clash sent passersby stampeding for cover at the busy Claro Mayo Recto Avenue, about 800 meters from the Malacanang palace gates, witnesses said. No one was reported injured.

The masked demonstrators hoisted placards which read "Long Live the NPA" and "Onward with the Revolution," when a police squad car hovered into view.

The protesters hurled homemade bombs on the policemen, who left their vehicle and opened fire on the attackers with M-16 rifles. But the demonstrators escaped by merging with the crowd, the witnesses said.

The NPA (New People's Army) is the armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which has been waging a 22-year old insurgency.

President Corazon Aquino has claimed that the government has broken the back of the rebellion, but the NPA scored a major tactical victory last week when they ambushed a company-sized army unit in the southern island of Mindanao, killing 38 and wounding 22 others.

Six Aurora Province NPA Officials Arrested

HK2002065292 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Six top officials of the New People's Army [NPA] were arrested by the Philippine National Police [PNP] in Aurora Province. Reports say among those arrested were Romeo Gonzales, alias Tomas Gonzales, who is reportedly a member of the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines] executive committee and deputy secretary of the Aurora provincial committee. There was a P [Philippine pesos] 150,000 reward on Gonzales' head.

The second official is Eduardo Valle, vice commanding officer of the Obit Penares Brigade in Aurora Province. The other is Salvador Tureza, an alternate member of the Aurora provincial committee and deputy secretary for District 3. There was a reward of P7,000 for Tureza.

Others arrested included Lucita Picasis, Brigido Facto and Sandro Espejon. Confiscated from two of the suspects were two M-16 rifles, two .38-caliber revolvers, a fragmentation grenade and subversive documents.

Four Rebel Officials Captured Throughout Luzon

HK2002031692 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 Feb 92 p 6

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Cabanatuan City.—Four high ranking members of the New People's Army were captured Wednesday at a checkpoint on Cagayan Valley road about one kilometer from Cabanatuan City where administration presidential candidate Fidel Ramos and his senatorial bets were holding a rally.

Col. Edgar Aglipay, Nueva Ecijia PNP [Philippine National Police] commander, said Romeo Gonzales alias Tom or Tomas, 33, secretary of the NPA provincial party command; Edmundo Valle alias Daniel, Arielor Ben Valle, 29; Valle's wife Lucita Pecasiol; and Salvador Turzar alias Jovel or Melvin, 22, were captured on their way to Aurora from Manila.

They were on board a Land Cruiser registered under a name of a concessioner in Dingalan, Aurora.

Aglipay said Gonzales carried a P100,000 [Philippine pesos] reward for his capture; Valle, P50,000; and Pecasio, P70,000.

Police seized from them two .38 caliber revolvers, an M-16 rifle and a grenade.

The four are detained at the Nueva Ecija provincial headquarters.

NPA Seen Violating Geneva Convention, Charged

HK2002144092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By Rodney Jaleco of DZRH Unit No. 1]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] will file formal charges with the International Committee of the Red Cross against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front [CPP-NPA-NDF] for violating the Geneva Convention.

Brigadier General Emiliano Templo, AFP deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations, said the CPP-NPA-NDF violated Section 3 of the Geneva Convention which prohibits anyone from torturing or killing an enemy if he no longer has the capability to fight back, as happened in the Surigao del Sur ambush last Saturday morning. According to some of the troopers who survived the attack, some of their wounded were tortured before being shot several times in the head.

However, according to Commander Major Patrocino Alcantara of the 23rd Infantry Battalion, to which most of those killed and injured belonged to, the rebels did give first aid treatment to some of the injured enlisted men.

Templo said that this form of violence only shows what the CPP-NPA-NDF in Surigao del Sur is capable of in the event that they prevail.

Templo also called on different human rights groups to join in the investigation being conducted on the incident and on reports that rebels are using young boys and girls in their operations. He said that both instances violate the Geneva Convention, which according to him, is the overall code governing warfare.

Military Deploys Special Forces in Bulacan

HK2002090192 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 20 Feb 92

[By Henry Umaga Diaz]

[Text] The National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC] has deployed a Special Forces group to Bulacan in line with the anti-insurgency campaign of the military in the province. The Special Forces is an elite group in the Philippine Army whose members are trained in special combat tactics.

The Special Forces will replace the 1st Marine Brigade stationed in the town of Dona Remedios Trinidad, Bulacan. The 21st Special Forces Company will have under them units of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units [CAFGU], which will also be stationed in the town.

The Special Forces Group, along with the CAFGU, will be responsible for guarding the town, which has recently been liberated from Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army's control, against any insurgent attack.

The NCRDC is the primary agency in charge of the military anti-insurgency campaign in the provinces of Bulacan and Rizal and the Metro Manila area.

Extra Police Deployed in Davao

HK2002142592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] General Cesar Nazareno, Philippine National Police [PNP] chief, has deployed additional men in Davao City to counter possible threats posed by New People's Army [NPA] rebels. This directive came after an attack on a police station and a grenade exploded in one of the city's shopping centers, where three people were killed.

As a result of these incidents, all of Davao City is now under red alert. This is to tighten security and to implement the PNP's Oplan Laging Handa [Operation Plan Always Ready].

Meanwhile, based on reports gathered by the military, these terrorist acts were launched by the NPA because they have failed to persuade citizens to support their organization.

Thailand

Bangkok, Rangoon To Destroy Illegal Bridges

BK2102020592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 92 p 3

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak - Thailand and Burma yesterday agreed in principle to demolish illegally-built bridges across the Moei border river to prevent illegal activities which may affect their relations.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of the local Thai-Burmese Border Committee at the Task Force 34 headquarters here.

Lt-Col Sein Win, who led the Burmese delegation, said Burmese troops on a suppression campaign against Karen National Union [KNU] rebels recently found several makeshift bridges across the Moei River.

The bridges should be destroyed because they benefitted only the KNU and Thai merchants engaged in illegal logging activities across the border, he said.

The head of the Thai delegation, Task Force 34 commander Col Niphan Sipaibun, said the Thai side would check on whether the bridges were built illegally.

Some Thai concessionaires were permitted by Burmese authorities to build bridges for transportation of logs, he said.

Col Niphan said illegally-built bridges would be pulled down.

Mae Sot District Officer Pramote Sunthonwipat, meanwhile, asked Myawaddy authorities to pull out posts erected in the Moei river by Burma.

The Burmese authorities wanted to build a bridge to Mae Sot to facilitate transportation of tractors to Myawaddy.

However, their plan was opposed by the Thai side on the ground that the proposed bridge would help increase cross-border illegal activities, including car and motorbike thefts.

The Burmese side agreed to pull out the posts.

The Thai delegation also asked the Myawaddy authorities to pull out posts erected in the Moei river to prevent bank erosion, reasoning that the posts have caused that particular problem for Thailand.

The Burmese side suggested that a formal request be made to Rangoon through the Thai Foreign Ministry because the posts were erected on orders from the central administration in Rangoon.

At the meeting, Burma also demanded huge compensation from Thailand for two incidents.

The Burmese claimed that on January 4 KNU rebels fired two 62mm mortar rounds from the Thai side of the border into Burma, seriously wounding two Burmese people. Burma demanded 200,000 kyats in compensation.

Col Niphan rejected the Burmese claim, saying the mortar rounds were more likely to have been fired from inside Burma.

Burma also claimed that on December 26 sixteen Thai traders were found felling logs in Burma opposite Ban Mae Ku in Mae Sot. When spotted by Burmese troops, the Thais fled to the Thai side and fired 30 shotgun rounds across the border, killing one Burmese soldier and seriously wounding one porter.

Burma demanded 100,000 baht in compensation for the dead soldier and 300,000 baht for the wounded porter, as well as an additional US$ 60,000 for damage to Burma's natural resources.

Col Niphan denied any responsibility for the incident, arguing that any illegal activity resulted from collaboration between Thai merchants and Burmese troops.

Article Considers Fall in Burma's Debt

BK2002053192 Bangkok THE MANAGER in English Feb 92 p 71

[Article: "A Fate Worse Than Debt"]

[Excerpt] The brutal crackdown on Burma's fledgling prodemocracy movement by Rangoon's goons in August and September 1988 dealt an almost fatal blow to foreign investment in the country. In the wake of the killings, almost all foreign aid to Burma was severed. Since almost 90 percent of the country's foreign debt of US$ 5.9 bn [billion] was extended on concessionary terms, this in itself should have been enough to give the military strongmen troubled sleep. Yet, according to official figures, Burma's debt has been decreasing steadily since 1988, falling to US$ 5.7 bn in 1989 and US$ 5.3 bn in 1990. By the beginning of the fiscal year 1991, it had fallen to a low of US$ 4.2 bn. How the regime explains a record drop of US$ 1 bn over just one year remains a mystery.

Although international condemnation of the regime's appalling human rights record has become noisier in recent months, sleights of hand by several governments have gone some way to easing the country's debt woes.

The first to break ranks with the international community's cold-shouldering of Rangoon was longtime sponsor Japan. In an abrupt about-face, Tokyo recognized the State Law & Order Restoration Council (Slorc) in February 1990 and, while maintaining a freeze on new pledges, resumed ongoing development projects, a move followed by UNDP [United Nations Development Program] and Australia.

Japan has traditionally been Burma's largest aid donor and Tokyo's decision to resume aid meant far more than the odd bit of spare change for the regime: only 20 percent of the US$896 m [million] earmarked for 19 loan projects had been disbursed by then, and 35 of the US$65 m for five ongoing grant projects was still outstanding. Furthermore, for two successive years, Japan has been matching Burma's debt repayments with debt-relief grants. In 1990, Rangoon forked out US$25m for the almost US$2.6 bn owed to Japan and was rewarded with a debt-relief grant for the same amount. In June the following year, Tokyo again matched a back payment from Rangoon and extended US$22.8 m in debt-relief aid for the third time since Burma was granted the status of least developed country in 1987. In early 1988, Japan provided Burma with similar debt relief, worth US$29 m.

A second reprieve, this time by France, followed two weeks later. In an abrupt move, Paris handed in a note of debt cancellation for the F [francs] 495 m (US$83 m) made available to Burma under its aid program since 1976. The money was allegedly used to upgrade the country's rickety railway system and unreliable communication network by purchasing diesel trains and track maintenance equipment as well as telephone exchanges and teleprinters. An undisclosed amount was also spent on buying equipment for a cement plant and a canning factory.

The decision had been made without consulting French diplomats in Rangoon, who were at the time trying to convert the debt into a credit line. Although the French ambassador to Burma, Alain Briottet, declared that Paris would not extend any new loans to Burma, some analysts suggested that the move was in part an attempt to win the favour of the military junta for the day when contracts for lucrative infrastructure projects would be awarded.

To date, Burma's external debt stands at about US$3 bn. The junta expects to have paid back US$ 202 m by the end of the current fiscal year, on 31 March 1992. This would leave the country with a debt-service ratio of 29 percent, based on an export target for the year of US$ 692 m.

Over the last three years, UNDP has also been quietly providing assistance to the regime. In July last year, it bestowed US$1.3 m worth of aid for development projects in the Kokang, Wa and Kengtung areas, near Burma's border with Thailand and Laos. At the same time, it has been revamping Burma's antiquated customs procedures and advising Slorc on privatizaton, public sector reform and environmentally sound natural resources development.

The price paid for maintaining a presence in the country? A UNDP report published in July 1990 adopts the Slorc's twisted logic almost verbatim: "As a major political development, national elections were held in May 1990 in accordance with the agenda set by the Slorc, which thereby fulfilled one of the major national tasks enunciated in 1988." Never mind the election results and the junta's failure to relinquish power to the winners. [passage omitted]

Anan, Phao Leave for Hong Kong 20 Feb

BK2002140692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] At 1415 today, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, his wife, and Deputy Prime Minister Police General Phao Sarasin departed from the Bangkok International Airport for a visit to Hong Kong until 23 February. He will participate in the ceremony to open a Board of Investment branch office in Hong Kong. He will also meet with Hong Kong businessmen to persuade them to invest in Thailand. Several Thai businessmen are accompanying the prime minister on the trip.

Ministry Urges EC Not To Ban Canned Bonito

BK2002012792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 92 p B1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has insisted that the European Community should not take unilateral action to bar the export of canned bonito from Thailand.

It also dismissed rumours that the Community has removed Thai exports from its tax concession scheme.

In a bid to settle the escalating dispute with the European Community over the billion-baht export of canned bonito, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin and Thai Ambassador to Brussels, Danai Tulalamba, invited the Community representative in Bangkok, Albert Maes, for talks yesterday afternoon.

Danai told a press conference after the meeting that Asa had informed the EC ambassador that Thailand is prepared to cooperate with the Community to examine the eligibility of the product in question for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), a tax concession.

But the Thai official said that the country would not accept any ruling imposed by the EC. Any settlement that will arise must be agreed upon mutually, Danai added.

In a conciliatory move, Danai said, Asa suggested that the Thai authorities would conduct a study into the availability of the fish and the use of the GSP by Thai exporters.

No timeframe was set for the completion of the study, but the ambassador stressed that it should be completed as soon as possible.

According to Danai, Maes agreed to consider the Thai proposal.

The EC recently concluded that the type of fish eligible for the low tax rate did not exist in the country, and requested the Thai trade authorities to withdraw all the Form-A certificates issued by the Foreign Trade Department to European importers for tax refunds when imports arrive in Europe. The Commerce Ministry, however, found both conditions unacceptable.

Under GSP, Thai canned bonito sarda enjoys a lower tax rate of 18 percent compared with the full rate of 25 percent. The concessional tax has encouraged the Thai export and enhanced its price competitiveness in the Community market.

The conclusion was made after the EC late last year sent a fact-finding mission to investigate the case. The Community officials reported that most of the shipment should not be eligible for the tax concession on the ground that bonito sarda, a type of fish specified for the tariff privilege, cannot be found in Thailand.

Commerce Minister Rebuts Attacks on Patent Bill

BK2102014792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 21 Feb 92 p B1

[Text] On the eve of the final National Legislative Assembly readings of the controversial patent bill, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on and senior trade officials have attacked the opposition for making criticisms that were "not well thought out".

Amaret hit back at the opposition, mainly university lecturers and medical personnel, for exaggerating the adverse effects of amending the patent law. He said the critics have failed to give the public a fair and balanced picture of what such amendment would lead to.

The minister, obviously upset at the harsh criticism he has received, insisted that the amendment was formulated without any ill intention as implied in the critics' statements.

Amaret seemingly equated the opposition move to kill the bill during its final readings today with condoning patent infringement in the country.

"If the professors and their students, who are regarded as the cream of the country, view stealing other people's intellectual property as a good thing, we should be worried about the future of our country," the minister said.

The opposition has launched successive attacks on Amaret and Thai trade officials responsible for drafting the bill, which attempts to extend protection to pharmaceuticals their active ingredients, farm machinery, food, beverages and biotechnological inventions, all of which are not protected under the present law.

"It is not fair to point out only the bad side of the bill; the good side deserves publicity as well," Amaret maintained.

Senior trade official Yanyong Phuangrat, deputy director-general of the Business Economics Department, issued a separate statement charging that the opposition was ill informed and had not made comments based on fact.

Yanyong is representing the Thai government at the Uruguay Round of multilateral talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) on intellectual property rights protection.

The official maintained that the country should speed up passage of the bill if it did not want to grant exclusive marketing rights to patent applicants, conditional upon the signing of a draft agreement on Gatt trade reform. If signed this year, the world trade agrement would take effect on Jan 1, 1993.

By the time, if the country lacked a law protecting pharmaceutical patents, it would have to provide a means of registration and provide exclusive five-year marketing rights to applicants whose products are approved by the Food and Drug administration, he said.

Yanyong stressed that exclusive marketing rights were not as good as full patent protection because the government would not be able to force rights owners to make available their products in the domestic market or revoke such rights.

"If the academics closely followed the Gatt negotiations and studied this issue thoroughly, they would not argue with the amendment of the patent act," the official added.

But university law lecturers argue otherwise. They say marketing rights do not cover production rights or the ability to further develop, all of which is provided by patent rights. Moreover, they say developing countries such as Thailand have five years to amend domestic legislation.

Patent Bill 'Response to International Pressure'

BK2102021392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Feb 92 p 15

[Text] The patent bill that is due for its second and third readings in the National Legislative Assembly today is clearly a response to international pressure. There are two aspects of this.

First, if no legislation is passed in the next few weeks to bring pharmaceuticals (and other new technology such as microbiology) under the Thai patent system, some Thai exports are likely to face stiff import barriers in the United States under Section 301 of Washington's trade law.

Although the legislation needs to be passed soon in order to beat next month's 301 announcement from Washington, the law could specify a grace period before patent protection is actually applied to pharmaceuticals.

One key question is, therefore, how long the grace period could be and still leave Thailand safe from US retaliation.

This is related to the second question: Thailand's obligations under international law and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

What are Thailand's obligations on pharmaceutical patents under GATT? The short answer is: none at all.

GATT is, however, important because of a draft agreement on intellectual property rights that could be signed this year if 108 nations can conclude agreement in the deadlocked Uruguay Round of GATT talks.

The intellectual property pact would impose obligations on Thailand, but it is a text that the Thai Government favours because it would also impose disciplines on other countries and could restrict the United States' freedom to use Section 301.

A key debate that has arisen in the past few months is, therefore, what exactly the GATT text means.

The best way to understand the text and what it might mean for Thailand as far as pharmaceuticals are concerned is to assume that the Uruguay Round will be concluded by mid-April as is currently intended and that Uruguay Round agreements take effect from this coming New Year, January 1, 1993.

Assuming that the new Thai patent bill is passed into law today, it will be published in the Royal Gazette almost immediately.

The pharmaceutical patent system will not take effect then, however. The bill proposes that the pharmaceutical patent system should come into operation 180 days after the law is published in the Royal Gazette.

This is not strictly speaking a "grace period." It is proposed purely for administrative purposes, so that the government can issue the necessary regulations and appoint the necessary personnel.

It also means that by January 1, 1993, the proposed date when the Uruguay Round agreements come into force, Thailand will have a pharmaceutical patent system up and running. This apparently innocuous fact is becoming a key issue of debate.

How does the bill, as it stands, relate to the GATT proposal? The debate centres on two articles in the Uruguay Round intellectual property text.

ARTICLE 65

Article 65 of the draft GATT text is about transitional arrangements. Three of its paragraphs are important.

Paragraph 1 says that although the agreement would take effect from January 1, 1993, in most cases its provisions would not need to be applied until a year later, January 1, 1994:

"Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 below, no PARTY (to the agreement) shall be obliged to apply the provisions of this Agreement before the expiry of a general period of one year following the date of entry into force of this Agreement."

Paragraph 2 would give developing countries an extra four years to apply the agreement provided they did not discriminate—they would have to conform by January 1, 1998:

"Any developing country PARTY is entitled to delay for a further period of four years the date of application, as defined in paragraph 1 above, of the provisions of this Agreement other than Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Part I." (Articles 3, 4 and 5 of Part I would prevent any country from discriminating between its trading partners or from discriminating between its own and foreign companies or citizens and would require all countries to abide by other international agreements.)

Paragraph 4 says that if on the date of application of the proposed agreement for developing countries (January 1, 1998), a country does not provide patent protection for a particular type of technology, then that country can further delay providing patent protection for that technology for another five years (to January 1, 2003):

"To the extent that a developing country PARTY IS OBLIGED BY THIS Agreement to extend product patent protection to areas of technology not protectable in its territory of Section 5 of Part II (the section dealing with patents) **of this Agreement to such areas of technology for an additional period of five years."**

Presumably, this extra five years is offered to allow developing countries time to adjust to the needs of highly advanced modern technology such as genetic engineering—both in terms of developing the technological capability and for creating the administrative expertise to examine applications for patent protection.

If that were all the draft GATT agreement said, then Thailand's obligations would be clear. There would be no need to implement a pharmaceutical patent system until January 1, 2003, provided pharmaceuticals remained outside the patent system until at least January 1, 1998.

For those who are reluctant to introduce pharmaceutical patents in Thailand, it would definitely be wrong to pass the law as it is.

But the issue is more complicated than that. The complication is Article 70.

ARTICLE 70

Two paragraphs of Article 70 are the subject of hot debate. They refer specifically to pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemical products (what they actually say will be dealt with shortly).

The first question is whether Article 65 paragraphs 2 and 4 would allow developing countries a delay in applying the Article 70 provisions on pharamaceuticals.

Some legal experts say yes, the Third World would be able to argue for a delay because Article 65 paragraph 2—which provides developing countries an extra four years (to January 1, 1998)—applies to the entire agreement except articles 3, 4 and 5. Since Article 70 is not exempt, developing countries do not need to apply Article 70 immediately.

Other experts, particularly at the Commerce Ministry, disagree; and a closer examination of the wording suggests the ministry could be right.

This alternative interpretation assumes that two different phrases have different meanings—"the date of entry into force of this agreement" and "the date of application (of the agreement)." (The opposing argument is that these two phrases mean the same thing.)

The Commerce Ministry argues that the agreement would "enter into force" (but not be applied) on January 1, 1993. It would be "applied" a year later in the case of developed countries, five years later on January 1, 1998, in the case of developing countries and 10 years later if the terms of Article 65 paragraph 5 are met.

The ministry's argument is given weight by a close examination of paragraph 1 of Article 65: The **"date of entry into force of this Agreement"** is one date; but there is no obligation to **"apply"** its provisions until **"one year following the date of entry into force of this Agreement."**

This paragraph makes a clear distinction between the two phrases. The other paragraphs merely extend the date of "application."

So what does Article 70 say? Assuming that the "date of entry into force" of the agreement is this coming January 1, 1993, if Thailand does not provide protection for pharamaceutical patents on that date (as would be the case if the new law is not passed this year), Thailand would still be required to accept applications for pharmaceuticals from January 1, 1993.

Thailand would also be required to grant the applicant exclusive marketing rights for that medicine even if the patent application is still being examined provided the

Thai health authorities have approved the drug as being safe—the drug would have to be approved for marketing in another country and its inventor would have to be applying for a patent in that country as well.

Paragraph 8 says: **"Where a PARTY does not make available as of entry into force of this Agreement patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products commensurate with its obligations under Article 27, that PARTY shall:**

"(i) provide as from the date of entry into force of the Agreement a means by which applications for patents for such inventions can be filed;

"(ii) apply to these applications, as of the date of application of this Agreement as if those criteria were being applied on the date of filing in that PARTY or, where priority is available and claimed, the priority date of the application;

"(iii) provide patent protection in accordance with this Agreement as from the grant of the patent and for the remainder of the patent term, counted from the filing date in accordance with Article 33 (which specifies a 20-year protection period for the filing date for patents) **of this Agreement, for those of these applications that meet the criteria for protection referred to in subparagraph (ii) above."**

Paragraph 9 says: **"Where a product is the subject of a patent application in a PARTY in accordance with paragraph 8 (i) above, exclusive marketing rights shall be granted for a period of five years after obtaining market approval in that PARTY or until a product patent is granted or rejected in that PARTY, whichever period is shorter, provided that, subsequent to the entry into force of this Agreement, a patent application has been filed and a patent granted for that production in another PARTY and marketing approval obtained for in such other PARTY."**

None of this will apply if the patent bill passes the assembly today. These two paragraphs of Article 70 would apply to Thailand only if this country does not provide "patent protection" for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products on January 1, 1993.

But even this statement is the subject of debate. On Wednesday, two Chulalongkon University law lecturers, Surakiat Sathianthai and Sutham Yunaitham, argued that if the law is passed today with a four-year grace period before the pharmaceutical patent system is implemented, these two paragraphs would not apply to Thailand.

What the two lawyers are saying is that Thailand would be giving "patent protection" from January 1, 1993, so long as the law is passed before that date, even if the law delays implementing the pharmaceutical patent system for four years.

Many would argue the opposite: that the draft is saying that pharmaceutical patents would not actually be protected until the system is up and running.

That means, with or without a law this year, the Thai Government would have to start accepting applications for drug patents and to grant exclusive marketing rights for the applicants (subject to Food and Drug Administration approval), if Thailand is to comply with the draft GATT agreeement.

And Thailand would still have to do that even if the law were passed with a four-year grace period.

There have also been suggestions that the government should implement a "grace period on the sly"—deliberately slowing down patent and FDA approvals. That is a highly dangerous suggestion for anyone who believes that bureaucratic procedures which are not transparent can lead to corruption or harassment.

Of course there is no guarantee that the GATT draft will be approved, but that is another matter.

Police Narcotics Office To Become Bureau

BK2002011192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] The Police Department's Narcotics Suppression Office will be renamed the Narcotics Supprssion Bureau and will consist of four divisions as recommended by the Juridical Council.

Police Chief Gen Sawat Amonwiwat said this was discussed at the Police Commission meeting on Monday.

The Narcotics Suppression Bureau will have one commissioner, 2 deputy commissioners and 3 assistant commissioners.

The bureau's personnel will be increased from 350 to 621 in order to conduct more effective anti-narcotics operations, he said.

The bureau's four divisions are:

—Command Division.

—First Anti-Narcotic Division: The division will be responsible for the suppression of heroin, opium and chemicals used for narcotics-production.

—Second Anti-Narcotic Division: The division will be responsible for the suppression of marijuana and other narcotic plants, amphetamines and other stimulants.

—Third Anti-Narcotic Division: The division will be responsible for interrogations, investigations and freezing and confiscation of assets suspected of being acquired through the narcotics trade.

Vietnam

Spokeswoman on Taiwan, U.S. POW's, Boat People

BK2002153992 Hanoi VNA in English 1459 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 20—The spokeswoman of the Foreign Ministry, Mrs. Ho The Lan, gave a regular press conference here this afternoon.

The FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW correspondent wanted to know about the agreement between Vietnam and China on Vietnam-Taiwan relations released at a press conference held in Hanoi on Feb. 14 by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen. He asked whether Vietnam and Taiwan would resume the "China Airline" which was suspended last year and whether they would use other Taiwanese airlines to resume flights between the two countries.

The spokeswoman said: "As in the past, Vietnam recognizes the Govenment of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate government representing the whole of China. Taiwan is part of China's indivisible territory. The relations between Vietnam and Taiwan are non-governmental economic and commercial relations. Relations in specific fields including air transport will be implemented in the above-said spirit.

Asked by AFP what is Vietnam's comment on Michael Honorin's report on the French TV Antenne 2 on Feb. 13 that Vietnam still detains 72 American POW's, and on a report of Voice of America (VOA) in the same vein, Mrs Ho The Lan said: "On Feb. 19 the Vietnam Office for the Search of U.S. Servicemen Missing in Action sent to U.S. MIA office in Hanoi with the following content:

"The Vietnam Office for the Search of U.S. Servicemen in Hanoi fully rejects the above-said information. The fact is that 72 Americans were stranded in South Vietnam after the war. They were not prisoners and all have been returned to the U.S. Government (33 persons in 1975, 36 persons in 1976, one person and the remains of another who died of disease in 1977, and R. Garwood in 1979).

"This was made clear in the white book on the American MIA issue published by the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department in 1980. The fact that Mr. Michel Honorin ignored or cut off historial truth and cooked up such a fabulous story is an ill-intentioned act towards Vietnam and also an irresponsible act toward the American people.

"The Vietnam MIA office urges the U.S. side to clearly explain this to the American and world public."

On the repatriation of illegal migrants now staying in Hong Kong, Mrs. Lan said: Despite many difficulties in the reception and especially the reintegration of the repatriates, out of humanitarian considerations we are ready to take back those the illegal migrants who are refused asylum and we do this on the basis of respect for their dignity, an orderly repatriation and with necessary financial assistance from other countries and international organizations.

"In this spirit, we have, together with HCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] and concerned parties, taken suitable measures to check the exodus. On the other hand, we have taken back 21,000 repatriates and created conditions for them to reintegrate themselves in the community at home without being punished or discriminated against in any way. The number of illegal migrants has, according to HCR, dropped from 3,000-4,000 in the previous months to 43 in November and 130 in December 1990 [as received]. The figure keeps decreasing strongly in early 1992.

"Worth mentioning is that Vietnam has received more repatriates than agreed upon while international fund for this work was not appropriate and often late to come which has caused many difficulties to us. Timely international funding to the necessary extent for the repatriation and reintegration programme will help settle effectively this problem."

In a related issue, Mrs. Lan referred to the Vietnamese trainees and guest workers who chose to stay back in foreign countries, especially in Eastern Europe, or who have settled in a third country for one reason or another. She said: "This is a complicated question of a humanitarian character which needs to be discussed among the concerned countries with a view to a satisfactory solution. We propose that the concerned countries, out of humanism and depending on the aspiration of each of those persons, allow them to stay back and earn their living or, if possible, to create conditions for those who want to go to a third country for family reunion. Vietnam is ready to receive those who volunteer to return in conditions that they have to bear all expenditures or their repatriation and reintegration are funded by the host country or international organizations. Vietnam is prepared, together with concerned countries and international organizations, to reach concrete agreements on the forms and modalities of repatriation and funding. Vietnam welcomes all assistance from concerned countries and international organizations in this work."

Commentator Condemns 'Lies' About U.S. POW's

BK2102051192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Station commentary by Thanh Hai: "A Deceitful Trick Is Going Bankrupt"]

[Text] According to a report from Moscow, on 19 December 1991 the Russian Federation's Ministry of Security announced that, after studying large numbers of documents kept in the archives of the former Soviet Union's KGB headquarters, the ministry could find nothing about U.S. prisoners allegedly being sent to the Soviet Union.

General Oleynikov, first deputy minister of security, spoke to U.S. officials at a meeting with a U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator Kerry. The delegation was in the Russian Federation to gather information about reports that U.S. soldiers missing during the Vietnam and Korean wars had been sent to the Soviet Union. At the meeting, when answering questions raised by the U.S. Senate delegation, a former KGB official named Aleksandrov officially rejected a report by Oleg Kalugin, a former KGB general, that KGB agents had questioned U.S. prisoners in Vietnam after 1973.

Thus, once again the fabrication about U.S. prisoners still detained in Vietnam after 1973 or sent to the former Soviet Union was dismissed. And this time, right at the place where documents are stored, the inventor of the false story was exposed. This also has confirmed the total truth of Vietnam's repeated statements that no U.S. prisoners are still being detained in Vietnam or have been sent to other countries.

This time, after the deceitful trick was exposed, a number of U.S. newspapers strongly cricitized various forces for using the myth about the sightings of living U.S. prisoners to oppose Vietnam and to obstruct the process of normalizing U.S.-SRV relations or to serve other U.S. domestic political aims.

The U.S. paper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR published an article titled "The United States Has Published a Myth About Sending U.S. MIA's to Their Last Resting Place," saying that it is time to eternally bury the myth invented by certain radicals for their own reasons, and that we should not allow this issue to become a "hostage" with regard to the process of normalizing relations with Vietnam. As for the MIA issue, which is eroding the people's confidence in the U.S. Government, the U.S. Administration should improve its relations with Vietnam in order to accelerate the search for information on U.S. MIA's.

For our part, the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY and then the SRV's MIA search organ have issued statements rejecting the fabricated story about U.S. soldiers still being held captive in Vietnam and criticizing those who are still clinging to their old, hostile path against Vietnam for using lies as a means to obstruct the process of normalizing U.S.-SRV relations and, through this, to prevent the trend toward doing business with Vietnam, which is now prevalent among U.S. and other world business circles.

Once again, we affirm that there are no U.S. prisoners still alive or being held captive in Vietnam and that we are ready to continue to exert our greatest efforts to cooperate with the U.S. Government in solving the MIA issue.

Any attempt to invent fabrications about, distort the truth, or negate Vietnam's goodwill with regard to the POW-MIA issue so as to obstruct the normalization of U.S.-SRV relations for personal gain will produce no results and will instead be condemned by the public.

UNDP Approves $93 Million for Economic Renewal

BK1602155892 Hanoi VNA in English 1243 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 16—The governing committee of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) unanimously adopted in New York on Feb. 12 a country programme for Vietnam with the total value of US$92,744,000.

The sum will be used chiefly to support the economic renewal programme including policy research, development of the legal system, reforms in the financial and banking rules and the state-run enterprises, as well as to help develop the [words indistinct] educational research, social insurance and personnel training, resettlement of repatriates, etc.

The support for the economic programme will focus on researches on industry, [word indistinct], development of export industrial, improvement of the infrastructures.

Addressing the session, Mai Ky, deputy chief of the State Planning Commission, said Vietnam highly appreciated this assistance and wished that the relations between UNDP and Vietnam would be further developed in the process of implementating this country programme.

Qian Qichen, Nguyen Van Linh Exchange Greetings

BK1702102392 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] In Ho Chi Minh City on 14 February, Comrade Qian Qichen, member of the State Council and foreign minister of the People's Republic of China called on Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee. Comrade Qian Qichen conveyed to Comrade Nguyen Van Linh warm greetings and best wishes from Communist Party of China [CPC] General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Chinese party and state leaders, and other Chinese veteran revolutionaries.

Comrade Qian Qichen said: The Chinese party, state, and people have realized the great efforts made by Comrade Nguyen Van Linh to the Vietnamese revolution and have highly appraised his very important contributions to restoring and developing the traditional friendship between the two parties and countries.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh asked Comrade Qian Qichen to convey his greetings and best wishes to Comrade Jiang Zemin and other Chinese leaders and veteran revolutionaries. He expressed satisfaction to see the consistent development of bilateral relations between Vietnam and China and hoped that this relationship will be further strengthened and developed. He wished the Chinese people new achievements in implementing the reform and open door policy as well as in building socialism in China.

DPRK Envoy Hosts Kim Chong-il Birthday Fete

BK1602150292 Hanoi VNA in English 1435 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.16—Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Yi Hong gave a reception here on Feb. 15 on the occasion of the 50th birthday of Kim Chong-il, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee (Feb.16).

His guests included Hong Ha, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and head of its External Relations Commission; Le Mai, vice foreign minister; and Senior Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Quang, vice minister of national defence.

Ambassador Yi Hong and Hong Ha raised toasts to the health of Kim Chong-il and the further development and consolidation of the friendship and cooperation between the two parties, states and people.

Earlier, the DPRK ambassador held a press conference to introduce Kim Chong-il's great contributions to the revolution and socialist construction in Korea.

Vo Van Kiet Meets SRV Embassy Staff in Vientiane

BK1802073192 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] On 15 February, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and members of our government delegation visited and chatted with cadres of the Vietnamese Embassy in Laos.

After he was briefed by Ambassador Nguyen Xuan on the work performance of cadres and personnel of our embassy in Laos, Chairman Vo Van Kiet cordially chatted with these brothers and sisters. The chairman pointed out the important initial achievements recorded by our people in the process of renovation over the past years. He affirmed the positive contributions to common success of the Vietnamese Embassy in Laos, especially the new progress in the consolidation and development of the special relations of friendship between Vietnam and Laos.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet said, "In the days ahead, there will be both great advantages and difficulties. To successfully implement the seventh party congress resolutions, along with their compatriots throughout the country, Vietnamese cadres and specialists in Laos must exert all-out efforts to help consolidate and develop the special and all-around relations of friendship between Vietnam and Laos."

Chairman Vo Van Kiet also visited with overseas Vietnamese at the Association of Vietnamese Residents in the capital of Vientiane. Mr. Mai Van Khanh, acting president of the Association of Vietnamese Residentas in Laos, briefed Chairman Vo Van Kiet on the situation of production and life of overseas Vietnamese in Vientiane and their energetic activities in support of their country.

Addressing overseas Vietnamese, Chairman Vo Van Kiet pointed out the need to consolidate and develop the special relations of friendship between Vietnam and Laos under the new situation. He also urged them always to adhere to policies and strictly comply with the laws of the Lao state, thereby contributing positively to the development of our country and the process of renovation in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Russian Envoy Pledges Continued Economic Ties

BK2002144592 Hanoi VNA in English 1439 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 20—Russian Ambassador to Vietnam R.L. Khamidulin gave here today a regular press conference on socio-economic situation in the Russian Federation and other issues concerning the Commonweath of Independent States (CIS).

Asked about the relations between the Russian Federation and Vietnam in the economic field, the ambassador said that now as in the future the Russian Federation still maintains its relations of economic and commercial cooperation with Vietnam, which would further develop.

New Phone Exchange; Trade With Cambodia Expands

BK1802070792 Hanoi VNA in English 0616 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 18—A 45,000-number electronic telephone exchange was inaugurated yesterday afternoon in Ho Chi Minh City.

The exchange with a total cost of 22.8 million US dollars and 24 billion Vietnamese dong (about 20 million US dollars) consists of a 30,000-number exchange of the E-Bao type installed by the Alcatel of France, and a 15,000-number exchange installed by the Siemens of Germany.

—The Vietnam company for export and import with Cambodia (Vikamex) is expanding its direct trading with state-run and private export-import organisations of Cambodia. It plans to achieve U.S.$15 million in export-import value in 1992, up by 25 percent compared with last year.

Recently the company has helped meet the demand of Cambodia for cement, petrol, oil, fertilizer, foods, medicines and provided goods supply and services for UN organisations in Cambodia.

—The Binh Dien and An Lac fertilizer enterprises under the Southern Fertilizer Company have turned out two kinds of mixed fertilizers named NPK 20-15-15 and NPK 16-16-8 to substitute imports in service of rubber planting.

Airlines Inaugurates Service to Singapore 18 Feb

BK1902155092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Vietnam Airlines's Boeing 737 aircraft was filled on Tuesday [18 February] with 149 passengers aboard on its inaugural service to Singapore. Vietnam Airlines will serve the Ho Chi Minh City-Singapore route four times a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Singapore Airlines is launching its four-times-a-week service to Ho Chi Minh City using an A-310 Airbus starting on February 28th.

Vo Van Kiet Exhorts Ho Chi Minh City Workers

BK1602131592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] After the Tet working visit to Bach Ho oil workers of the Vietsovpetro Joint Venture in Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province, and after the Nham Than [Year of the Monkey] New Year, Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid more working visits in Ho Chi Minh City.

On the morning of 9 February, the chairman held a working session with No. 2 Electricity Company of the Ministry of Energy on urgent measures to increase electricity sources for southern Vietnam in 1992-1993.

After listening to reports by the company general manager on electricity production and distribution in 1991, electricity demand and service capacity in 1992, and measures to increase 1992 output, the chairman said that, in 1992-1993, the government wants the electricity sector to concentrate on two projects: the 500-kilovolt national electricity transmission line and the Bach Ho-Thu Duc natural gas transportation line. These are two important projects which should be given priority to fulfill the electricity demand for production and living in southern provinces and for natural resources exploitation.

He said that, when we have only a very limited national fund, we must allocate it only to important projects first and, at the same, time we must attract more foreign capital investment. The two-year time limit set for the completion of the national transmission line is a record. Therefore, we must do the survey and planning work very well, as well as the preparation of equipment, materials, and work management. We must work quickly to compensate for previous delays. We will work quickly, but we will guarantee the best quality and prevent any construction waste.

Concerning urgent measures to increase electricity sources, the chairman stated that the government had positive policies to create more sources, but the electricity sector in general, and No. 2 Electricity Company in particular, must exhaust all local sources and must manage, distribute, and utilize the electricity well. Electricity for industrial and processing production for export, for agriculture production, and for production of consumer goods must be given priority. Electricity used in other areas must be restrained as much as possible. At first, in order to spare electricity for production, every sector, house, and person must practice saving electricity. The electricity sector needs to study and submit to the government more measures to encourage saving electricity.

At the Vietnam Natural Gas Company on the afternoon of 8 February, the chairman listened to a report by the company manager on the investment, construction, and working plans of the exploitation and transportation system of natural gas in the Bach Ho-Thu Duc project. The project aims to transport natural gas collected in the process of oil exploration in Bach Ho oil well to run electricity generators, solving the shortage of energy and fuel in the southern provinces at present. Based on the science and technology plan that was approved by the government at the beginning of this year, the company is constructing the inland pipeline, negotiating with foreign companies for more capital investment, and so forth.

The chairman issued some instructions for the project. He said that the exploitation of natural gas, the Bach Ho-Thu Duc transportation system, and expanded oil exploitation at Rong and Dai Hung oil wells are the new, important, and industrially complicated projects. Therefore, preparation work for these projects is important, in which measures on investment and construction must meet planned requirements. The government will create favorable conditions for the company to complete its task, but the Ministry of Energy and other related ministries and sectors must also realize their responsibility in management, coordination, and assistance, so that the project can be implemented as planned.

Visiting the Ba Son Shipyard Incorporated Enterprise in its new year production days, the chairman hailed the enterprise for its quick adjustment to the market-mechanism, development of the right of autonomy in production, and efficient exploitation of the capacity of existing equipment and labor. He also praised the enterprise for its excellent service to national defense and economy with its increasing production, for its efforts to improve workers' lives, and its fulfillment of tax duties.

The chairman hoped that the enterprise would continue renewing its equipment and production line to surge forward, being able to build more technologically advanced ships. He also expected the enterprise to continue participating in planning for building and repairing ships for the Vietnam shipbuilding sector, a sector with full, but not yet completely exploited potential.

In the afternoon of 8 February, the chairman attended the New Year meeting of cadres who work in the culture, arts, information, and press sectors of Ho Chi Minh City. Comrade Tran Trong Tan, deputy secretary of the city Party Committee, and many other leading comrades of the city also attended the meeting.

Speaking at the get-together, the chairman pointed out Vietnam's socioeconomic achievements scored in 1991 and outlined the socioeconomic development direction 1992 in order to create a better and firmer stabilization in politics, economy, and society for the following years. Mentioning cultural and social issues, the chairman said that when we open the door to economic development, we also open the door to cultural exchange, but cultural exchange must take place on a selective basis. For us, the more we open our door, the more we have to uphold independence and self-determination in economy while at the same time preserving and developing our national culture and keeping society healthy. In Ho Chi Minh City as well as other localities, social vices are a concern for all of us. If we do not have efficient measures to preserve and develop national culture and encourage a healthy culture, then we cannot protect the people. If we cannot protect the younger generations, how can we protect the nation, independence, and self-determination?

Chairman Vo Van Kiet suggested the city assess its cultural and arts activities as well as social management work so it can draw necessary lessons for the management and control of the arts, culture, and press sectors. Then it can direct these activities to the preservation and development of pure and healthy national culture, and prevent and hold back anything alien to national culture. All levels, sectors, mass organizations, and law enforcement agencies need to coordinate in doing this work, creating opportunity for cultural and social development suitable to our economy in the present renovation path.

Nguyen Khanh Visits Lao Cai, Yen Bai Provinces

BK1402051192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] From 7-11 February, Comrade Nguyen Khanh, member of the party Central Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, paid a working visit to Lao Cai and Yen Bai Provinces.

On this occasion, Comrade Nguyen Khanh had working sessions with the provincial party committees and people's committees and was briefed on the local socioeconomic situations in 1991 as well as on the orientations for the 1992 socioeconomic development programs.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh shared his views with Lao Cai and Yen Bai about the socioeconomic orientations for 1992 and subsequent years, stressing the need to link economic development with market demand, the exploitation of forest resources with reforestation, and agricultural production with market demands at home and abroad. He called everyone's attention to the need to ensure profitable operations because good income will certainly help encourage workers to boost production.

Regarding education and public healthcare, he stressed the need to pay attention to meeting the needs of grassroots establishments. As an immediate objective, it is necessary to supply sufficient medicines to protect people from malaria and goiter. Plans must be worked out to train ethnic minority students and to build quality boarding schools in high-lying regions. Constant efforts are needed to implement the anti-illiteracy campaign and accelerate the training and improvement of cadres in charge of agencies at provincial and grassroots levels.

Comrade Nguyen Khanh toured (Dai Ngan) Border Gate, Border Defense Outposts Nos. 551 and 277, a farm specializing in the planting of special fruit trees and medical herbs, a number of schools in (Duc Ha District) of (Ha Tuyen) Province, and a precious stone mining facility.

Do Muoi Addresses Conference of People's Councils

BK1802040892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Vietnamese Party General Secretary Do Muoi appreciated efforts by the people's councils to reorganize and restructure themselves in order to become truly authoritative offices in each locality. Speaking at the national conference of people's councils, which ended on Wednesday [12 February] in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr. Do Muoi pointed out that only when power is exercised by the people can a state of the people, by the people, and for the people be ensured and promoted.

'Revised' Car Market 'Expanding Quickly'

BK1102154292 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 11—Though newly revised the automobile market in Ho Chi Minh City is expanding quickly, even quicker tham in the old Saigon.

The city has at least 20 automobile saloons.

Each saloon sells almost only one make. Some sell Toyota, Nissan and Honda. Others sell Peugeot 205, 405, and 505. Some specialize in 9-seat or 14-seat cars such as the big "Shark" and small "Shark" Toyota, or Bestas or Hyundais.

Cars are imported mostly from Bangkok through Cambodia. A number of French cars are imported by foreign investors.

Prices vary greatly between new and used cars and are paid mostly in dollars or gold. A new Nissan or Mercedes costs 40,000 USD upward but a used Falcon may cost 3 taels of gold or less (1,500 USD at current exchange rate).

News Conference Held on Investment Cooperation

BK1902065592 Hanoi VNA in English 0546 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 19—A press conference was jointly held here on February 18 by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) and the Chamber of Commerce of Vietnam on an exhibition on foreign cooperation in investment named "FDI in Vietnam Expo-92" to be held here from February 20-24.

At the conference, vice chairman of SCCI Nguyen Mai and Director General of Chamber of Commerce Doan Ngoc Bong briefed Vietnamese and foreign newspaper.

Taking part in the exhibition will be hundreds of licensed foreign investors and companies, international organisations, managers and producers at home and aborad.

Seminars on investment, goods production and commerce will be arranged at the exhibition to help foreigners inquire into issues of their concern.

So far, 90 economic organisations (with 150 businessmen) and 115 foreign businessmen from 15 countries and regions (excluding foreign companies which have representative offices in Vietnam) have registered to participate in the exhibition.

Since the promulgation of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam in late 1988, more than 310 foreign projects with a total capital of more than USd 2.4 billion have been licensed.

Members of Scientific Policy Council Appointed

BK1802044392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers recently decided to appoint members of the National Scientific and Technological Policy Council. The Council of Ministers has assigned Comrade Dang Huu to temporarily preside over the first session of the National Scientific and Technological Policy Council to exchange views on the nomination of its chairman and vice chairman before submitting their names to the chairman of the Council of Ministers for formal appointment.

Members of the National Scientific and Technological Policy Council include Comrade Pham Thi Chan Chau, Comrade Vu Dinh Su, Comrade Phan Dinh Dieu, Comrade Tran Phuoc Duong, Comrade Tran Ngoc Hien, Comrade Nguyen Van Hieu, Comrade Dang Huu, Comrade Ham Duc Tin, Comrade Dang Xuan Ky, Comrade Vu Ngoc Ky, Comrade Phan Huy Le, Comrade Hoang Thuy Nguyen, Comrade Nguyen Dinh Quang, Comrade Tran Hong Quan, Comrade Nguyen Duy Quy, Comrade Do Quoc Giang, Comrade Ngo Thuy San, Comrade Hoang Xuan Xinh, Comrade Nguyen Hoa Thinh, Comrade Ho Le Thoang, Comrade Tran The Thong, Comrade Ha Hoc Trac, Comrade Le The Trung, Comrade Dam The Tuan, and Comrade Hoang Trong Yem.

Roofing Joint Venture Established With Hungary

BK1802065792 Hanoi VNA in English 0609 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 18—Politropic Ltd, a joint venture between the Bemes private export company of Hanoi and the Tropika private company of Hungary, made its first appearance here on 17 Feb.

Politropic Ltd. is operational for 10 years with heat and sound-proof roofing sheets as its main product.

Mr. Bach Minh Son of Vietnam and Mr. Nagy Andras of Hungary were elected respectively the director and deputy director of the company which is head quartered at 394 Bach Mai Street, Hanoi.

Australia

Israel Urged To Withdraw Troops From Lebanon

BK2102083492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] CANBERRA, Feb 21 (AFP)—Australia Friday appealed to Israel to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon, urging it to break the cycle of violence in the region.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Israel should respect United Nations resolutions demanding its complete withdrawal from Lebanon and respect Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Israeli tanks and infantry forced their way out of the Israeli-established security zone in southern Lebanon and past U.N. checkpoints early Thursday, claiming they were only acting to stop rocket attacks on northern Israel.

"It was of serious concern that Israeli forces had been in conflict with members of the U.N. forces and that U.N. soldiers had been wounded," Evans said.

Business Council Established With Vietnam

BK1702094892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Canberra, Feb 17 (AFP)—An Australia-Vietnam Business Council is to be set up to help in the restructuring of Vietnam's economy, the Confederation of Australian Industry (CAI) announced Monday.

CAI International director general Malcolm Overland said about 30 Australian companies had indicated support for the council, which is expected to be operational by early April.

The move follows the recent appointment of a trade commissioner to Hanoi by the Australian Government trade promotion group Austrade.

Although the Vietnam Government is communist, its economy is expected to surge over the next few years with the lifting of foreign investment restrictions and international trade and investment embargoes.

Overland said the direction of Vietnamese reform was still unclear, while the maze of Vietnamese bureacracy remained.

But the new council would help by identifying bureaucrats for Australian business to approach for permits, and by eventually "matchmaking" opportunities with businesses.

"The council will implement an active campaign to promote within the Vietnamese Government the capabilities of Australian companies to participate in the economic restructuring under way in Vietnam," Overland said.

"The council will be able to make significant inputs to the trade and investment policy deliberations of the Australian Government regarding Vietnam.

"It is envisaged that there will be considerable work to be done in clarifying and developing a framework of business law and practice between the two countries, particularly in such areas as tax and investment guidelines."

Hawke Interviewed on Retirement Announcement

BK2002103292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 20 Feb 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] As you have heard in the news, Australia's former Prime Minister Bob Hawke has announced his retirement from politics. Mr. Hawke notified the speaker of the House of Representatives that he was stepping down as the Labor Party member for the Melbourne seat of Wills. Mr. Hawke, who is 62, was prime minister for nine years until December last year when he was defeated in a leadership ballot by his one time deputy Paul Keating. In an interview with (Jana Vent) of Australia's Channel-9 commercial television network Mr. Hawke spoke out the reasons for his resignation.

[Begin recording] [(Vent)] Really how difficult was that decision to make?

[Hawke] Not a very difficult decision at all because I really made my position clear on the 19 December in time to weigh my priorities. [words indistinct] was that I felt that I had a priority towards my wife, my children and my grandchildren. And after the 19th, I have taken a number of trips to make arrangements, [words indistinct] into a simple question of good conscience. I could not as a matter of conscience have been doing all those things and purported to continue to be in any effective sense the member for Wills.

[(Vent)] How much damage do you think you will do to the party by resigning?

[Hawke] I would have done much more damage to the party by not resigning because if I [word indistinct] all these other things and pretend that I was still a member for Wills, they would have had no chance, no chance at all, of winning Wills at the next general election. As it stands now they may lose at the by-election. I hope sincerely that they do not.

[(Vent)] While the prime minister and others who have said that is it is your prerogative to choose what you do, there will be, do you not think, an outspoken accusation or an unspoken accusation that you have wrested on the party.

[Hawke] I do not believe so, I am not quite certain and I have not heard that from anyone put to me.

[(Vent)] Mr. Hawke, do you feel that the party is [words indistinct]

[Hawke] No. My relationship with the party is really not of that kind.

[(Vent)] But from an outsider's view you delivered to the party, history-making period in office. They delivered to you a historic-dumping of a prime minister.

[Hawke] Apparently [words indistinct]

[(Vent)] Is it also accurate to call this ingratitude?

[Hawke] On their parts. Well now I prefer to call them [word indistinct] and I do not think in politics you have to act on the basis of gratitude. I rather put it in terms of [words indistinct]. That is all. [end recording]

Fiji

Land Minister Says 1990 Constitution 'Unworkable'

BK1702075092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Fiji's minister for land and mineral resources in the interim government, Ratu William Toganivalu, has dismissed as unworkable the new constitution adopted in 1990. Ratu Toganivalu, a leading contender for prime minister at the general elections scheduled by the end of June this year, raised the idea of readopting the 1970 independence constitution. This was revoked after the two coups of 1987 led by the then-military-commander, General Sitiveni Rabuka, now leader of the Fijian political party and a contender for the prime-ministership.

Ratu Toganivalu said the new constitution would not work because it was absolutely [word indistinct] towards Fijians and because the other major race in the country, the Indians, did not like it. He said in a multiracial society a good constitution was one acceptable to all ethnic groups, otherwise dissent will be present all the time. The minister said the 1970 constitution had been acceptable to all groups and should be reconsidered.

Ratu Toganivalu is the second cabinet minister to publicly criticize the post-coup constitution. The interim prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, earlier said he could not work under the 1990 constitution.

New Zealand

Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji Continues Visit

Criticized on Human Rights

BK2002120592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Wellington, Feb 20 (AFP)—Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji was Thursday told by Foreign Minister Don McKinnon that New Zealand was concerned about the human rights situation in China.

Zhu is in New Zealand for a five day visit focusing mainly on trade and joint industry ventures.

He met McKinnon who afterwards said in a statement that New Zealanders were concerned about human rights abuses in China.

"Just how great our influence can be I do not know, but I have no doubt our message on New Zealand's concerns about human rights was received and duly noted," he said.

The bulk of the talks dealt with bilateral trade opportunities and the steps China was taking to become more integrated into the world trading system.

"No one wins if China goes off at a tangent," McKinnon said.

New Zealand's best interests were to ensure the way China traded was in line with the rest of the world.

Earlier Zhu met the chairman of the New Zealand Wool Board, Pat Morrison, and board executives.

Last year China purchased 30,000 tonnes of New Zealand wool, which amounted to around 23 percent of the season's clip.

Zhu told Morrison New Zealand woolgrowers would benefit from reforms under way in China's textile industry, as well as from increased consumer demand.

The Chinese textile industry was undergoing considerable rationalisation aimed to make it more market-led and responsive to consumer demand, Zhu said.

The emphasis would be moved from quantity toward variety, design and quality, the board was told.

Although people were being exposed to synthetic products, the consumer psychology was still oriented towards natural products such as wool.

Zhu noted the board had extending technical expertise to the Chinese textile industry. Co-operative ventures such as the board had carried out on Nantong No 2 cotton mill and was conducting with the Weihai woollen carpet mill represented the "correct path", he said.

In 1981 the Wool Board supported a Nantong mill extension to make the first Shetland wool yarns in China. This led to the first Chinese imports of scoured wool, and Nantong became a model for numerous subsequent Chinese mills.

The board signed an agreement in 1991 with Weihai under which it will assist the mill to manufacture tufted wool carpets.

China would welcome further help from New Zealand, both in technical areas, and in marketing its manufactured wool products abroad, the vice premier said.

Plans Hong Kong Stopover

BK2102014492 Hong Kong AFP in English 2223 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Wellington, Feb 21 (AFP)—Chinese Vice Premier Zhu Rongji will make a brief stopover in Hong Kong on Saturday, a Chinese Embassy spokesman said Friday.

Zhu, who previously visited the British colony when he was mayor of Shanghai, is currently on a five-day visit to New Zealand.

His stay in Hong Kong—which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997—would last only "a few hours," embassy second secretary Ma Jixuan said.

Zhu is to leave Auckland on Saturday on a Cathay Pacific Airways flight, arriving in Hong Kong at 8:25 p.m. (1225 GMT).

Medical School Reports 1991 Record of AIDS Cases

BK1702113892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Wellington, Feb 17 (AFP)—New Zealand had recorded a total of 310 cases of people with full-blown AIDS, of whom 209 had already died, by the end of 1991, the Otago Medical School said Monday.

Since New Zealand recorded its first three Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases in 1984, 209 people had died of the disease and 91 were still alive, the Dunedin-based university's preventative and social medicine department said in its quarterly report on the disease.

Ten other people recorded with the disease were either overseas or could not be traced, the report said.

Last year, 78 people developed full-blown AIDS, of whom 75 were male and three were female, the report said.

Homosexuals and bisexuals accounted for 64 of the total, heterosexuals for five, and homosexuals/injecting drug users and injecting drug users for three each.

New Zealand, with 9.1 AIDS cases per 100,000 people, ranked behind the United States with 79.7, Canada's 20.1 and Australia's 18.7, but ahead of Britain's 8.5, the report said.

No transfusion or perinatal-related cases noted last year, and it was unknown how the other three contracted the disease.

The report said 41 percent of all New Zealand's AIDS cases came from the 30-39-year age group, 27 percent were aged 40-49-years, and 18 percent were aged 20-29.

Solomon Islands

Province To Decide on Bougainville Recognition

BK2102073492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 92

[Text] The premier of Solomon Islands Western Province says a decision will be made soon on whether to recognize the self-declared interim government set up by the secessionists on Bougainville. The provincial premier, (Arthur Kobaru Onusu), said the Western Province Government has a political and moral obligation to make its position clear.

The Solomon Islands Government maintains that the situation on Bougainville is an internal affair of Papua New Guinea. However, Mr. (Onusu) says this is no longer the case because the effects of the problem on Bougainville have spilled over to Western Province which adjoins the island.

Mr. (Onusu) said any recognition of the Bougainville interim government by his province would be on the basis that the Bougainvillians have the right to decide their future.

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